



**CITY OF WORTHINGTON**  
**Worthington City Council Minutes**

November 19, 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, November 19, 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, Douglas K. Smith, David Robinson, and Bonnie D. Michael

**Member(s) Absent:** Scott Myers

**Also present:** City Manager Matt 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 John Bailot, Chief of Police Jerry Strait, Clerk of Council D. Kay Thress, Assistant City Clerk Ethan Barnhardt

There were 11 visitors present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**VISITOR COMMENTS**

There were no comments.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Daughters of the American Revolution – Wreaths Across America – Joyce Brand, Regent

*Ms. Brand explained that Wreaths Across America is a special program that was started about 20 years ago by a veteran who owned a tree farm and had many leftover Christmas tree parts that could be used to make wreaths. He remembered visiting Arlington National*

*Cemetery as a boy and decided he would make wreaths to place on the graves of veterans in older areas with few visitors.*

*It has been very successful national. There are now enough wreaths sponsored at Arlington to cover every single veteran's grave. It has also expanded to other cemeteries across the nation. The Worthington Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is sponsoring the three cemeteries in Worthington. They have a total of 1,494 veterans graves between the sites of St. John's, Flint, and Walnut Grove cemeteries. The goal is to cover all of them.*

*This is something done nationally on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm. There were over 200 people present at last year's ceremony. This year they are trying not to cause traffic jams or make it difficult for people at the Flint Cemetery who are seeing others. The Worthington Presbyterian Church has been willing to host the ceremony in the Hazelton Hall.*

*Last year, President Michael and Mayor Holmes spoke at the ceremony presentation and put a wreath on James Kilbourne's grave. There has been a great deal of assistance from local Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops.*

*The mission of Wreaths Across America is to teach, honor, and remember our fallen heroes. Wreath sponsorships are \$15.00 apiece and Wreaths Across America rebates back \$5.00 from each wreath that the DAR uses to pay forward for Honor Flight Columbus. Honor Flight makes trips to our national war memorials for veterans.*

*President Michael asked if people are dispatched after the ceremony at the Presbyterian Church to all three cemeteries at the same time. Ms. Brand reported that there would be ten reserved spaces at the Presbyterian church for those specifically going to St. John's since there are only 24 graves. Flint Road was the sticking point last year, so there will be 20 passes printed. The passes will be on a first come, first served basis. Others who are interested are welcome to go to Walnut Grove.*

*When asked by Ms. Kowalczyk how one contributes as a sponsor, Ms. Brand shared that those interested can visit the Wreaths Across America website or their website through Weebly.com.*

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- Meeting Minutes – November 5, 2018
- Meeting Minutes – November 13, 2018

### **Ordinance No. 48-2018**

Amending Ordinance No. 41-2017 (As Amended) to Adjust the Annual Budget by Providing for an Appropriation from the Accrued Acreage Fund Unappropriated Balance in the Amount of \$35,000.

**Ordinance No. 49-2018**

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 the Huntley Road Waterline Design as part of the NE Gateway Intersection Improvement Project and all Related Expenses with said Project. (Project No. 602-14)

**Ordinance No. 50-2018**

Amending Section 151.02 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Worthington Concerning the Disposition of Records to be Consistent with Section 149.381 of the Ohio Revised Code.

**Resolution No. 61-2018**

Approving an Agreement and Permit for and between SCG Fiber, LLC, an Ohio Limited Liability Company, to Operate and Maintain a Telecommunications System Within the City of Worthington Pursuant to and Subject to the Provisions of Chapter 949 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Worthington.

**Introduced by Mr. Robinson**

**Resolution No. 62-2018**

Adjusting the Annual Budget by Providing for a Transfer of Previously Appropriated Funds

**Introduced by Mr. Foust**

*President Michael asked if there was anyone who wished to have any of the aforementioned pieces of legislation removed from the Consent Agenda.*

**MOTION**

Mr. Smith moved, Ms. Dorothy seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

<b>Yes</b>	<b>6</b>	Robinson, Kowalczyk, Foust, Dorothy, Smith, and Michael
<b>No</b>	<b>0</b>	

**The Consent Agenda was thereupon declared duly passed and is recorded in full in the appropriate record book.**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS ON LEGISLATION**

**Ordinance No. 47-2018**

Amending Ordinance No. 41-2017 (As Amended) to Adjust the Annual Budget by Providing for an

Appropriation from the Accrued Acreage Fund  
Unappropriated Balance in the Amount of \$35,000.

*Mr. Whited detailed how this ordinance allows the City to advertise for quotes for the work associated with the safety protections at the railroad crossing on East Wilson Bridge Road. This was added to the agenda with the hopes that there would be additional information acquired prior to this meeting. That information is not so he is requesting the ordinance be tabled.*

**MOTION**

Ms. Kowalczyk moved, Mr. Robinson seconded a motion to table Ordinance No. 47-2018.

**There being no additional comments, the motion to table Ordinance 47-2018 passed unanimously by a voice vote.**

**Ordinance No. 51-2018**

To Amend Section 1123.762 and Section 1147.01 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Worthington to Amend the Definition of Dog and Cat Day Care Center to Dog and Cat Care Center and Add Dog and Cat Care Center as a Conditional Use in the Neighborhood Commercial (C-1) District, Community Shopping Center (C-2) District and the Restricted Light Industrial (I-1) Zoning District.

*Mr. Brown explained how there was a request from a property owner who wanted to open a dog and cat daycare center with boarding and grooming. The current Planning and Zoning Code that was drafted in 1971 did not go into much depth on dog and cat daycare. What was requested of staff and the code review committee, ultimately on to the Municipal Planning Commission (MPC), was a request to amend the code to allow for the overnight boarding for dogs and cats and to add it to the C-1 district. Currently as a conditional use, dog and cat care centers are permitted in our C-2 and I-1 districts. This change would amend the definition to add in additional requirements and language for indoor runs and for an overnight stay. The C-1 district, the C-2 district, and I-1 district would still all be a conditional use. If this were to pass, the applicant would then have to apply for a conditional use going to the MPC. If it is able to meet the review criteria, which is notified to all surrounding property owners, the MPC can look at approving, denying, or modifying the applicant's request.*

*When it goes to MPC, with the conditional use you look at hours of operation, traffic patterns, utility impacts, noise, odors, etc. It does add in a request for our C-1 district, which there are maybe six properties throughout Worthington that are zoned C-1. It did go through MPC in the October meeting and the Code Review Committee and was recommended for approval on to City Council.*

*Mr. Robinson asked if dog and cat care centers were included in the 1971 code. Mr. Brown responded he did not believe that they were, however there were some amendments done in the early 2000s. Mr. Robinson followed-up by asking why they were allowed originally*

*in the C-2 districts but not the C-1 districts. Mr. Brown said there was not clear reason why it was in the C-2, but it is considered more of a retail-type use.*

**There being no additional comments, the clerk called the roll on Ordinance No. 51-2018. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes 6** Robinson, Kowalczyk, Foust, Dorothy, Smith, and Michael

**No 0**

**Ordinance No. 51-2018 was thereupon declared duly passed and is recorded in full in the appropriate record book.**

**NEW LEGISLATION TO BE INTRODUCED**

**Ordinance No. 52-2018** Providing for the Adoption of the Annual Budget for the Fiscal Year 2019 and Appropriating Sums for Current Operating Expenses.

**Introduced by Mr. Robinson**

**Ordinance No. 53-2018** Establishing Compensation for Certain Unclassified Positions of the Municipal Service For the Period of January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019, and Adopting Class Specifications for Said Unclassified Positions.

**Introduced by Mr. Foust**

**Ordinance No. 54-2018** Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract Between the City of Columbus Board of Health and the City of Worthington for Health Services.

**Introduced by Mr. Smith**

**Ordinance No. 55-2018** Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Contract with the Village of Riverlea for the Provision of Police Protection.

**Introduced by Ms. Dorothy**

**Ordinance No. 56-2018** Approving the City Manager's Appointment of the Franklin County District Board of Health as the Provider of Plumbing Inspection Services in the City of Worthington.

**Introduced by Ms. Kowalczyk**

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 Transfer (s)

*Mr. Greeson explained how the liquor permits are for the Blarney Stone and AV Nail Spa doing business as Anthony Vince Nail Spa, which is a new shop in the Shops at Worthington Place. We are given an opportunity to be able to object and engage in a formal process before the Division of Liquor Control, however with both of these there are no reasons to object.*

### **MOTION**

Mr. Robinson moved, Mr. Foust seconded a motion not to request a hearing for the Blarney Stone liquor permit.

**There being no additional comments, the motion to not require a hearing for the Blarney Stone liquor permit passed unanimously by a voice vote.**

*Ms. Kowalczyk asked if there had been any other businesses that were not restaurants that had liquor permits at the Shops at Worthington Place. Mr. Greeson replied that he was not aware of any, but there are other retail establishments in the area who do.*

### **MOTION**

Mr. Smith moved, Ms. Dorothy seconded a motion not to request a hearing for the AV Nail Salon liquor permit.

**There being no additional comments, the motion to not require a hearing for the AV Nail Salon liquor permit passed unanimously by a voice vote.**

- Proposed 2019 Operating Budget – Presentations from Community Groups

### ***Worthington Convention and Visitors Bureau – Bill Purpura, Board President***

*Mr. Purpura explained how the Worthington Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) has served the community since 1995. The CVB is funded through 66% of the City's Bed Tax collections. Recently there have been major changes going on with the redevelopment of the Holiday Inn site and the retirement of Executive Director Mindy Mace. This has led the board to enter into a contractual partnership with the Old Worthington Partnership for the interim Executive Director position, reporting to Partnership Director Nina Parini.*

*These changes have led the board of the CVB to rethink the structure of Worthington's promotional organizations and how they are funded. He put together a travel industry professional task force whose goal was to determine whether the CVB and the Partnership needed to be merged in some way. Through thoughtful discussion and analysis, it was*

*decided that merging the two would be the best course, making both financial and promotional sense. Mr. Purpura called a meeting of the CVB board and they approved a motion to dissolve the CVB by the end of 2018 and return all assets to the City for eventual redistribution to the Partnership for the purposes of promoting travel and tourism in Worthington. The issue of how to best promote Worthington's travel and tourism interests should be carefully reviewed again once the hotel is back up and full funding is restored.*

*Mr. Greeson described how the CVB board has reviewed and objectively analyzed their future without regard of whether they would be involved. He thanked them for their selflessness.*

*President Michael explained how she has served on the board since 1991, which spans the CVB's entire existence. She cannot compliment enough the hard work and hours put in throughout this process. She explained how the Partnership is willing to add a board member and include new parts about tourism in their mission.*

*Mr. Robinson inquired about what decision Council would be asked to make tonight. Mr. Greeson responded there would be no formal decision made. What is needed to be understood is whether Council feels good about these recommendations and having staff help with them through this change. There would also need to be some steps taken relating to the dissolution of the CVB and the subsequent appropriation of funds to the Partnership to accomplish what the codified ordinances intends for the Bed Tax revenues. Mr. Robinson asked when we would anticipate doing that. Mr. Greeson responded that it would possibly be in the next month. Mr. Robinson asked about the vote tonight relating to the Partnership's funding and what it entails. Mr. Greeson replied that it would be for the Partnership's regular mission and funding. There would be an additional appropriation later for the expanded tourism mission. This may be undertaken in two steps with first for there to be a continuation of the activities of Interim Executive Director Beth Dekker and there may need to be some amount of money appropriated to continue activity at the current level. Second, the CVB has developed a fund balance that was built in anticipation of not having much revenue from the decrease in Bed Tax. The suggestion is that the Partnership would come back a little bit later with a more detailed plan of how they would use those dollars during the time period while redevelopment is occurring.*

*Mr. Robinson asked Mr. Purpura if the Executive Director had not retired if the organization would be making this same decision. Mr. Purpura replied it would not have been forced. They had known the redevelopment of the Holiday Inn site was coming and they proudly accumulated the balance. Still having the Executive Director there, they most likely would have moved forward as originally anticipated. The combination of the loss of both income and the Executive Director, in addition to seeing the great job done by the Partnership in the interim, it caused them to reevaluate their plans. The task force was able to see the benefits of the two organizations working more closely together under one roof. Mr. Robinson asked what the missions of the two organizations are. Mr. Purpura explained that the mission of the Partnership is to generate business activity in Old Worthington and the CVB's mission is to impact tourism across the entire region of Worthington proper. Though somewhat similar they have two very different missions,*

*however the benefits just fill the room. Mr. Robinson commented if there are two different missions, he does not see how the merger is going to address this. Mr. Purpura stated the job being done by the Partnership satisfies their responsibilities compared to what the CVB would have been doing on their own. However, down the road when full funding comes available the structure does needs to be readdressed.*

*President Michael discussed how the Partnership has put in place an experienced staff person whose focus is tourism and they have done an excellent job picking up on things and moving forward. They have also committed to adding some of this direction into their future amended bylaws so that the mission of the CVB is not going to get lost in a merger.*

*Mr. Purpura detailed how the Partnership will be faced with the same challenges they have been until funding has returned with the rebuild of the Holiday Inn site.*

*Mr. Greeson noted how the missions of both organizations satisfy the use of the Bed Tax revenues under Ohio law. The reality is they share a physical office, collaborate on development of the Experience Worthington website, and now have had a contract model. The CVB board also evaluated different organizational models for this.*

*Mr. Robinson said that he does not doubt that this can be done operationally, but Worthington is a lot more than the historic downtown businesses. He would be concerned that the CVB focus would be lost by focusing more on steering people to businesses in the historic district. Mr. Purpura said that those concerns were discussed by the task force. The Partnership is going to expand the board to include other people from the travel and tourism industries, which will go a long way to protect both missions.*

*President Michael explained that the board has seriously discussed their options, looking at it carefully. The CVB has received very good service in the months that the Partnership has been contracted with. There have been many improvements and good things happening. She agrees with Mr. Purpura that we can move forward and then come back when there is full funding to look at the needs at that time.*

*Mr. Purpura told Mr. Robinson that they could not have done this five years ago. The Partnership has done a wonderful job hiring a competent director and put together a working board. They have proved themselves to be a useful, viable organization in the community. Going forward, they will need to have the right people put in place to take on the travel and tourism side.*

*Mr. Smith referenced the task force and their recommendations. He asked when the full funding returns if there were specific recommendations they had. Mr. Purpura replied that if the full funding of the CVB and the current funding of the Partnership are added together, that would put Worthington in line with other surrounding community's convention and visitor bureau budgets and might be a game changer, making us more competitive. Mr. Smith asked if the intent of the task force was to combine forces in perpetuity. Mr. Purpura reported that as a complicated issue to solve. It could go in a million different directions in terms of leadership and budgets. There are many different models being used across*

*the country today. However, the task force was only tasked with determining if some kind of a merger makes sense, not what form a merger would take.*

*Mr. Foust referenced the CVB board minutes regarding the \$174,000 fund balance that the CVB has and then he asked about the redistribution of those funds to the Partnership. Mr. Greeson said there would need to be discussions about closing out expenses, working with various state agencies, and other actions undertaken. However, almost all of that would come back to the City and it is Council's decision to redistribute funds to the Partnership. President Michael asked for clarification. She asked if the full amount of whatever money comes back to the City will automatically go to the Partnership. Mr. Foust explained how Mr. Greeson's memo says that all assets would be returned to the City for redistribution to the Partnership for the purposes of travel and tourism in Worthington. Mr. Greeson explained how that is ultimately Council's decision but is the recommendation of the CVB. Mr. Foust asked for an action plan with measurable outcomes and follow-up because that is a large amount of money to wholesale pass along. Mr. Greeson detailed how the next steps in this process include:*

- 1) Closing out of activities*
- 2) Deciding what funding to give to the Partnership in the interim to continue that activities that they have been doing in support of the CVB mission*
- 3) Development of more robust plans for how those dollars would be spent over the next two years to achieve the mission*
- 4) Deciding on the game plan for when Bed Tax revenues return.*

*Ms. Kowalczyk expressed how the retirement of the Executive Director was sudden, and someone needed to step in to conduct business as usual. The Partnership did that and more. These are positive steps, breathing some new life into tourism in Worthington. It is good we have time to make this decisions and it makes sense to have one organization promoting the city.*

*Ms. Dorothy shared how she is glad they have partners to collaborate with and she looks forward to seeing what is done in the future.*

***Old Worthington Partnership - Aaron Brown, President and Sarah Mullen, Vice President***

*Mr. Brown recalled the Partnership's collaboration with the CVB starting with the website, from that meeting forward they have worked really well together. He asserted how there is no more important time to promote tourism than today. He referenced the investments in the cities of Dublin and Gahanna, taking disposable dollars out of Worthington. We are at a difficult time where funding for tourism may hit all-time lows. It will be a challenge to take the funds that have been saved and stretch them out for possibly up to four years. After the Bed Tax comes back, Worthington's funding for tourism may be in the upper echelon.*

*Cities are looking differently today at the role of a convention and visitors bureau. Today in Worthington there is not space to host a convention, let alone a charter bus tour. That is the evolution they have to look at. The missions of the CVB and the Partnership are different, but they are related. The charter of the Partnership is focused on the Old Worthington area. The board is discussing that and the greater value they may be able to offer.*

*The reality is they have to continue to employ a part time director to avoid a dip, because it is hard to recover from that. There are several areas that need to be discussed. The first phase is giving them 6 months to figure things out and look at the details of the budget before coming back to discuss how the remaining funds can be used over the next three years. They may also be in the position where the Partnership can help fundraise and direct other dollars to enhance tourism in the community. When looking at how states are holistically treating tourism it is now more public-private partnership. The reality is that the Bed Tax is not enough to make a meaningful impact in tourism in communities.*

*Mr. Brown identified how the Partnership is committed to adding two board members. They will also look at their bylaws to see how they can evolve. Mainstreet organizations are uniquely positioned to do similar work to CVBs. They will also make sure to provide quarterly updates to former CVB board members, so they can remain connected and involved.*

*The Partnership has made several improvements over the past six months. Social media has grown quickly on Instagram and Facebook. They are engaging in significant efforts to bring tourism to the city. They are conducting familiarization tours that are bringing in social influencers who write about their experiences in Worthington. The Interim Executive Director has been building relationships that did not exist previously in the tourism community. The visual identity has also been updated and rebranded, creating a connected experience from the outside-in.*

*People are not going to vacation in Worthington, so there is a renewed focus on experiential tourism. Dollars should be spent through digital channels that allow for a more targeted spend by knowing when people are coming into the zip code and pushing ads for local destinations. They are also empowering others through tourism ambassadors, who are both residents and visitors, that are telling their friends to come to Worthington. There are also opportunities for grant programs that other municipalities are already utilizing to boost their budgets.*

*Mr. Greeson stated that Council needs to give staff direction on how to work with these folks to affect the dissolution and bring forward the various budget and legal documents. There needs to be buy in for this direction.*

*Mr. Robinson asked what exactly the direction is. President Michael responded that the direction being discussed is going through the dissolution of the CVB before the end of the year, having the funds returned to the City, and then working with the Partnership to have a future appropriation based upon plans, projects, reports, and information brought*

forward. Mr. Robinson asked if we are deciding on the dissolution or if it is already determined. President Michael replied that it has been recommended by the CVB that this happen. Mr. Greeson remarked that the CVB is a not for profit and can dissolve itself, however we would have to receive those assets and re-appropriate them.

Mr. Lindsey reported that the CVB can dissolve whether Council wants them to or not, but the City may have a claim to its funds since it came from the Bed Tax. The allocation of Bed Tax is a future Council decision, with 25% of the total Bed Tax under state law having to go towards the functions of tourism. It is a separate Council decision to determine how much of the \$174,000 being returned should be appropriated to one place or another. The question is whether Council wants staff to assist the CVB with this dissolution process. To help wrap it up in an expedient manner to allow the transfer of funds to occur promptly to then allow a partial allocation to the Partnership to allow the continuation of tourism activities during an evaluation period.

Mr. Foust reported there being two willing partners. Council should oversee the process in a manner to set everyone up to be successful. He cannot see why we would question the recommendation that has been made.

Mr. Clevenger explained how he was the one who proposed the motion to dissolve the CVB. The funds that were accumulated were collected over a period of time for the purpose of sustaining the activities of marketing for visitors to the City of Worthington while the Holiday Inn is down. They could have written the Partnership a check, telling them to do the work. His hope is, and the intent is not for the funds to come back to the City and be controlled by doling them out in a manner they were not intended to be used for. The CVB board thought this process was the most appropriate way to do it.

Mr. Robinson suggested that his concern is the long-term merging of the two missions and how that is going to play out. Mr. Clevenger agreed that those are great questions.

President Michael acknowledged that a majority of Council is in favor of this moving forward with staff working to help the CVB dissolve, working with the Partnership on their new direction, and coming back to Council in the future when more details are known.

Ms. Mullen described her background growing up in Worthington before moving away and then moving back. She explained how she wanted to share some of the accomplishments of the Partnership throughout 2018.

She detailed their annual meeting in April 2018, which highlighted the theme of being connected. This year was focused on growing the volunteer pool. They conducted a volunteer drive which enlisted over 200 new volunteers, giving over 1550 hours of their time. There were 200 hours alone spent working on the window contest. The volunteer drive has also helped connect volunteers with other organizations in need of volunteers.

The board is a committee structure which can really get the community involved at a level that they feel comfortable with. They can come and volunteer for a couple hours at an

*event or they can join and be a part of or chair a committee. It helps get the community more involved.*

*The DORA has been in place for 18 months and it has been a huge success. There has been a 10-15% increase in alcohol sales at businesses when the DORA has been in place. There have been no reports of issues so far from the Worthington Police Department. Additionally, other cities continue to ask representatives from Worthington to speak about the DORA.*

*They make efforts to connect with merchant by holding meetings every month discussing things to improve their business. There are also four different workshops held throughout the year discussing Social Media 101, Traditional Marketing, Retail Forecasting, and Family Business Law. A Business Advisory Council was created with different professionals who can be counted on if a merchant has a need for advice.*

*The website has been updated with fresh content that is easy to use, and they are very proud of the interface. The newsletter continues to grow with 2300+ subscribers and an open rate that is 25% higher than other non-profit newsletters.*

*The Partnership has also hosted major events throughout the year including:*

- *The Chocolate Walk was in its second year in 2018. 75% of visitors for this event were not from the 43085-zip code. It was held in February which is usually a cold time of year where businesses may normally be closed, but 250 tickets were sold out in less than a week.*
- *The Third Annual Picnic with the Partnership drew 600 guests who came to High Street, which was a 30% increase from 2016. There were 15 dessert stations set up inside shops which promoted moving around the district.*
- *The First Annual Craft Crawl had 60% of guests not from the 43085-zip code. This event grew from a merchant who had the idea since Worthington has a lot of experiential experiences. Guests buy tickets which give them two experiences, but they would not know what experience they were choosing until they came. There was also live music and the DORA was in place.*
- *The Holiday Open House saw year over year increases in merchant sales, attendance, and offerings. There were corporate sponsors last year for the first time. They also partnered with the Worthington Resource Pantry to raise \$465 and 50lbs of food.*
- *The Farmers Market tried an extension of their hours as a pilot program staying open until 1:00 PM this year. There were also additional spaces in front of the United Methodist Church. They are currently still receiving feedback about the time change. The Farmers Market has moved into the Shops at Worthington for the winter.*

*President Michael asked about the increased fees for some of the events, particularly the Holiday Open House. Ms. Mullen said there was a mixture of increased fees as the*

*numbers have grown. The brochure will say what items are free and what has a charge associated.*

*There have been many new partnerships established over the year such as:*

- Student internship with Linworth Alternative High School Walkabout Program
- Speaking engagements GWAREA, Chamber, Lions Club, and Heritage Ohio.
- Sponsorships with CoHatch and FCBank
- Partnering with the Arts Festival to promote historic district businesses
- Working with Triad Media Partnership for the video promoting holidays in Worthington.
- Slice of Worthington which had 13 shops who participated. They raised enough money to help the Family Mentor Foundation feed 60 children for 3 months.

*The Partnership is continuing to work to connect with new funding. They have partnered with the Hodge Group, which is a professional fundraising organization, to help answer the who, what, and how to diversify funding sources. Following their suggestions, the Partnership has their first corporate sponsors in CoHatch and FCBank.*

*The It's a Wonderful Window Contest is a great program. They partnered with 4 student teams from Ohio State University who receive credit hours for joining with merchants to design window displays. The theme this year was, "Share the Love."*

*Another project has been working on the Olentangy Bike Path Historic District Project. They have placed signs along the route from the trail to the historic district, collaborating with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board. This was also an opportunity to communicate with residents regarding changes being made to the bike path. They went door to door placing a door hanger to let residents know they would be seeing some changes. That was also done with the Farmer's Market extension, so that residents were aware that it would be extended for an extra hour.*

*Finally, they coordinated the Postal Planters project, pulling away years of ivy growth off the Old Worthington Post Office building.*

*Mr. Foust brought up the Business Advisory Council and asked if those resources are available through the Partnership to businesses that are outside the historic district. Ms. Mullen said she could not see any reason why they would not connect with those interested.*

*Mr. Robinson referenced the engagement of resident ambassadors and asked how many of the people from outside 43085 were connected through people who are from here or from promotional marketing. Ms. Mullen reported that much of it was done through social media. Some people who come are familiar and bring a friend, but she was astonished where some people come from and how they heard about events.*

- Follow Up – Proposed 2019 Operating Budget & Proposed 2019-2023 Capital Improvement Program

*Mr. Greeson explained how at this point, all the departmental and special group presentations have been completed. Legislation necessary to adopt most of the major budget documents has been prepared and introduced. The anticipation is for the public hearing to be on the first meeting of December, a resolution will be prepared to adopt the Capital Improvements Program, and legislation will be prepared for Council to introduce an ordinance for new and replacement equipment. Mr. Greeson welcomed any additional questions that Council may have for staff, or any changes that are desired. Additionally, there needs to be a discussion about the requests for additional funding from some of the special groups. Specifically, the Historical Society has asked for \$5,000 more compared to the previous year and the Partnership requested a \$5,800 waiver of fees to cover the cost of City expenses associated with the Picnic.*

*Mr. Smith mentioned the Historical Society's previous presentation and the Bicentennial Fund and discussed the potential to give them some level of funding. President Michael explained the problem is how much City funds can be used for capital projects. Ms. Dorothy stated that she would rather keep the Bicentennial Fund money for subsequent celebrations. However, she is in support of their increased \$5,000 request. Ms. Kowalczyk agreed with the value of the Historical Society and their additional \$5,000 request and she also supports the Old Worthington Partnership's requests. They are both reasonable.*

*President Michael asked if there were any concerns about the \$5,000 increase to the Historical Society. Mr. Foust said there were none. Mr. Greeson asked if that should be an increase in the special groups allocation or to come from the special group allocation, lessening the amount going to other groups. Ms. Kowalczyk clarified that would decrease the amount available to other groups and she stated she was not in favor of that, suggesting there be an additional appropriation to that fund. President Michael stated that the direction be for it to be an additional appropriation.*

*President Michael turned the conversation to the funding for the Partnership. Mr. Greeson explained how the number of things we have waived fees for has been decreased. We only have Market Day, which has been conducted for a long time, that is not charged for Division of Police, Division of Fire, and Service and Engineering support. There are a number of civic organizations that are charged and pay for their expenses associated with their event, so there is the need for us to be consistent.*

*Mr. Foust said that many of those groups are not for profit. While the Partnership itself is a not for profit, it is in support of others that are for profit. That makes him a little less inclined to support that waiver. Mr. Greeson explained how they do have an economic development, community building mission that may be different.*

*Ms. Kowalczyk proposed that it not be considered a waiver of fees for a particular event, but an increase in their appropriation to consider the value that they bring. That way it is not looked at as favoring one group over another.*

*Mr. Foust expressed if we are not allocating money to the other organizations who need police coverage how is it fair that we would do it for the Partnership. Mr. Robinson said that we should make the decision to not make it a fee waiver. He wants to know what the budget will look like next year with the probable takeover of the CVB. Mr. Greeson said that they would have an approximate \$50,000 request to support their current activities. We would have the fund balance appropriation and there would be dollars that they have planned over a couple years to use. The 66% of the Bed Tax revenues of the Econolodge, would also be going to the Partnership to use. Mr. Bartter reported the total being approximately \$967 per month in Bed Tax Revenue. Mr. Robinson observed that it looks like they will be seeing an infusion of money. He suggests increasing base funding when we see what they're getting one, two, three years from now. President Michael asked what Mr. Robinson's thoughts were on the \$5,000 now. Mr. Robinson said that he would say no considering the significant new revenue they would be getting next year.*

*Ms. Kowalczyk shared that she was under the assumption that the revenue from the Bed Tax would specifically go toward tourism-based activities. They would be expected to produce a budget a show what they are doing with those dollars. It would not necessarily merge into the Partnerships budget's. Mr. Greeson agreed that they would have to account for their usage of the Bed Tax revenue. Ms. Kowalczyk then asked if they would have to keep the revenue separate. Mr. Greeson replied that those details would be worked out.*

*Mr. Foust asked if we waived the charge for police services this year. President Michael replied that we did not. Mr. Foust said his inclination is to label it what it is. If the amount the Partnership requesting is \$55,864, then let's see a request for that and not muddy the water with waiving a fee. Let's call it what it is and not get in the business of waivers.*

*Ms. Dorothy confirmed she would be in support of raising their budget to \$55,000. Mr. Robinson suggests waiting another year or two to see where things stabilize. Mr. Foust explained that without seeing a justification for it, he does not know why we would increase it. Mr. Smith asked if we could split the difference, otherwise he has no problem with increasing to \$55,000. President Michael said that she does not have a problem upping the amount and there is a general consensus for staff to have direction.*

*President Michael asked for thought on the use of the Bicentennial Fund. Ms. Kowalczyk stated she is not sure how she feels about using these funds. President Michael said members did not have to decide on the Bicentennial today. It can be something Council can come back to at a later date.*

## **REPORT OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**

*Mr. Lindsey explained how Mayor Holmes, Prosecutor Sheffer and himself have been discussing a need for a back-up magistrate. Because of the Charter language change, we will be coming forward with some general qualifications for that position, and then some names within the next 30-45 days.*

*Mr. Smith said that City Manager evaluations are due at some point during the week.*

*Ms. Dorothy expressed her hope that the McConnell Arts Center will introduce a new director in December if all goes well.*

*Ms. Kowalczyk reminded everyone that the Holiday Open House is coming up this weekend.*

*Mr. Greeson announced that after surveying Councilmembers for possible retreat dates, it appears February 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> look the best. He asked that Councilmembers put a tentative hold for those dates.*

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION** Ms. Kowalczyk moved, Mr. Robinson seconded a motion to meet in Executive Session to discuss Board and Commission appointments

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

<b>Yes</b>	<b>6</b>	Robinson, Kowalczyk, Dorothy, Foust, Smith, and Michael
<b>No</b>	<b>0</b>	

Council recessed at 9:33 P.M. from the Regular meeting session

**MOTION** Ms. Kowalczyk moved, Ms. Dorothy seconded a motion to return to open session at 9:38 P.M.

**The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Foust seconded a motion to adjourn.

**The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.**

President Michael declared the meeting adjourned at 9:38 P.M.

/s/ Ethan C. Barnhardt  
Assistant City Clerk

*APPROVED by the City Council, this  
3<sup>rd</sup> day of December, 2018.*

/s/ Bonnie D. Michael  
Council President