



**CITY OF WORTHINGTON**  
**Worthington City Council Minutes**  
January 7, 2019

6550 N. High Street  
Worthington, Ohio  
43085

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

Worthington City Council met in Regular Session on Monday, January 7, 2019, 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:**

**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

There were four visitors present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

- Committee of the Whole Meeting – December 10, 2018

**MOTION** Ms. Kowalczyk moved and Ms. Dorothy 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. 60-2018**                      Accepting Sanitary Sewer Improvements Constructed in a Public Easement Located at the Kemper House of Worthington.

**The foregoing Ordinance Title was read.**

*Mr. Whited explained how this is a relatively simple process. The Kemper House project required a short section of sanitary sewer, that is approximately 133 feet, to be constructed. It has been constructed appropriately, inspected, and accepted by us as the engineering group. He recommended to Council that they formalize that acceptance.*

*In response to Ms. Dorothy's question about how long the new sewer will last, Mr. Whited replied that he would expect it to last many years, possibly 40-50.*

**There being no additional comments, the clerk called the roll on Ordinance No. 60-2018. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

**No     0**

**Ordinance No. 60-2018 was thereupon declared duly passed and is recorded in full in the appropriate record book.**

**Ordinance No. 61-2018**                      Determining to Proceed with the Acquisition of Real Estate Interests for the Northeast Gateway Intersection Improvement Project, Authorizing the City Manager to Acquire Certain Parcels Without Further Council Action, and Requiring Adoption of a Resolution to Authorize Acquisition of Other Parcels. (Project No. 602-14)

**The foregoing Ordinance Title was read.**

*Mr. Greeson detailed how this is for the Northeast Gateway Project, which may be better understood as the reconstruction of the Wilson Bridge/Huntley/Worthington-Galena intersections. It is a large project that involves federal funds, state funds, as well as local funds that requires some acquisition of property in order to construct.*

*Mr. Lindsey explained how the use of federal and state funds for this project requires a specified procedure for the acquisition of the necessary right-of-way. We hired three different consultants with one doing the appraisal, one doing a review of the appraisal,*

*and the other reviewing the relocation process if necessary. As part of that, the properties and various parcels are appraised with a value set, which is the starting point for any negotiations. Some are acquired at that value, others may require additional effort. However, to keep the project on time and moving forward, we wanted our approval process to be able to accommodate the bulk of the parcels so staff would not have to come to Council for approval of each individual parcel because the actual process gets spread over several months. We have identified an amount that Council would be comfortable with in terms of pre-approval for parcels that are under the \$30,000 limit. Anything over that would need Council approval by a separate resolution. We have identified as a determination to proceed, as to all of the parcels in addition, any additional parcels that might get identified late in the project. He wanted to make sure if that were to happen we would have the determination to proceed as required under our Charter, so we could pass those approvals by resolution, keeping the project moving in a timely manner.*

*Mr. Robinson asked if there is a map that Councilmembers could look at to help them understand where the parcels are located. Mr. Lindsey said that Ms. Thress has that map ready, although it was not included in the original packet because he was concerned about the potential for confusion before this meeting. Mr. Robinson asked if this map could be posted online as a record from this meeting.*

*Mr. Myers observed from the memo that we have begun to make initial offers and he asked if the offer process has started yet. Mr. Lindsey replied that the process has begun. Mr. Myers asked if we have made offers on all 39 parcels. Mr. Lindsey stated that he did not believe offers have been made on all of them. Mr. Whited reported that it changes every day. There are 31 parcels in negotiation, two have been donated. There are six offers that have been accepted. Mr. Myers inquired if we are going to encounter any issues, or if we will need to go to eminent domain. Mr. Whited stressed that he hopes it does not come to that, but he cannot say no. There has been a great deal of advance work done with the property owners in previous years. Discussions are ongoing with no big issues anticipated.*

*Mr. Lindsey clarified that we are hopeful that all of these will go through negotiation. There are two parcels with no living owners. We anticipate we will have to go through the appropriation process, because we have to go through the publication to all potential heirs. Mr. Myers asked if we would still have to have a jury determination of value. Mr. Lindsey replied that since that process is yet to play out later this summer, he does not anticipate a jury. He believes it will be agreement by the court at that point because there will be no opposition. It will be done by proper notice by determination of the court.*

*Ms. Dorothy asked when members would receive an update on this. Mr. Lindsey explained how he, Mr. Whited, and others meet on a fairly regular basis with the consultants. Council could be updated as often as requested. President Michael requested that Council be updated monthly.*

**There being no additional comments, the clerk called the roll on Ordinance No. 61-2018. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

No 0

**Ordinance No. 61-2018 was thereupon declared duly passed and is recorded in full in the appropriate record book.**

**NEW LEGISLATION TO BE INTRODUCED**

**Resolution No. 01-2019**

Approving an Agreement and Permit for the City of Dublin, an Ohio Municipal Corporation, 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 Ms. Kowalczyk.**

**MOTION**

Ms. Dorothy made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 01-2019. The motion was seconded by Mr. Myers.

*Mr. Greeson explained how the City of Dublin has a fiber optic network that is within Columbus Fibernet, which is in Worthington's right-of-way. Any user of our right-of-way like this requires a right-of-way agreement. The City of Dublin, like private providers, pays the fees and enters into a right-of-way agreement with the City of Worthington.*

**There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 01-2019 passed unanimously by a voice vote.**

**Resolution No. 02-2019**

Appointing Katelyn Burkley to the Worthington Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board.

**Introduced by Mr. Smith.**

**MOTION**

Mr. Foust made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 02-2019. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robinson.

**There being no discussion, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 02-2019 passed unanimously by a voice vote.**

**Resolution No. 03-2019**

To Accept a Grant from the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio for a Food Scraps Composting Program and Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Grant Agreement.

**Introduced by Ms. Kowalczyk.**

**MOTION**

Ms. Dorothy made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 03-2019. The motion was seconded by Mr. Myers.

*Mr. Greeson informed Council how staff is always looking for opportunities to expand our ways in which we can make an impact on our environment. This includes increasing our sustainability efforts and expanding ways we can encourage recycling of more things. We have done this with e-Waste, old oils, and with our robust curbside recycling program. This was an opportunity staff pursued to target food compost and food waste.*

*Mr. Whited explained how he is thankful we have this grant from SWACO and thankful for Mr. Chandler in his office for coordinating this work. The grant money will go towards the cost of receptacles, shipping of the materials, signage, installation of hardware, and some publicity. The City will pay 25% and SWACO 75%. It is estimated that our portion will be \$1,200 with SWACO's being closer to \$5,000. This will be with Innovative Organics, which is the entity that runs the current programs at the Farmer's Market.*

*Up to 400 residents will be given a collection pail. That pail is theirs and they bring it back and forth to the location which will be inside the gates at the Service area. It will be operated during the day while the department is open and once a month on Saturdays during most of the year. There will be eight or nine, ninety-gallon totes where food waste are to be dumped. Residents will then take their pail home and clean it up before beginning collecting again. Participants must be a city resident. He detailed how he has a list of materials that are acceptable and those that are not. He is not sure how that will be policed, hopefully it will be self-policed. Organics will be accepted while any plastics, diapers, cartons, dog-waste, dead animals or things of that nature will not.*

*President Michael asked that the list be posted on the City's website. Mr. Whited replied that he would make sure that happens.*

*Mr. Myers questioned if the 400 people allowed in the program would approach the City. Mr. Whited reported the exact process has not been worked out, but it will be published, and they can come in and sign-up first come, first served.*

*President Michael mentioned the success that Bexley has had with their program. They have a different trash collection so those who wanted it could have it curbside, but they would pay more. Since our City pays for trash, we could not copy their program. She is sure that there will be interest in this program and her hope that Sustainable Worthington will get the word out to their membership.*

*Mr. Whited described the measures of success for this program. First, the hope is to enroll 400 residents, which would show that there is a demand for this. There will also be measurements of how much waste is collected, giving an idea of how much diversion there is from the traditional waste cycle. That will be measured weekly and against the average garbage from households to determine that diversion rate. After the trial is over on December 31, 2019, there will be an evaluation to determine if that process continues or if another process should be pursued.*

*When asked by Mr. Robinson what happens to the organics that will be collected, Mr. Whited replied that the organic materials are turned into a compost material and distributed by Innovative Organics in one way or another.*

*Mr. Smith explained how when participating in the Farmer's Market's program, when someone turns in five buckets, they get a bucket of compost. He asked if it would be similar in this case. Mr. Whited stated that they do not anticipate doing that now. Mr. Smith reminded Councilmembers how he has been pushing for a composting program for several years. He thanked staff for their efforts on the first iteration of this program.*

*Ms. Kowalczyk asked if participants would be talked to at the end of the trial to see if they have any suggestions for improvement. Mr. Whited commented that is an awesome idea and there needs to be a survey. The logistics have not been hammered out, but they will be working on that. Ms. Kowalczyk discussed the distinction between this program and the Farmer's Market program and how you are paying for that which is why you get the dirt. In this case, it is a free program to allow people to dispose of their organic waste.*

*Ms. Dorothy seconded Mr. Smith's comments, expressing her appreciation for all of the work that Messrs. Whited and Chandler have put into organizing the program and giving the people of Worthington the opportunity to participate.*

*President Michael explained how staff has been working on this for over a year, coming up with this program. It was difficult to work through logistically.*

*Mr. Myers commented in response to some Sustainable Worthington chatter, he is proud of himself when his recycle bin is fuller than his trashcans until he finds out that half of what he is trying to recycle is not recyclable. It is amazing how much we put in there that gets picked back out, which increases the cost for us to recycle. He does not know how that is solved, but he does not know what we can recycle anymore.*

*Mr. Foust mused that perhaps there could be a plastic overlay placed on the lids stating what can be recycled.*

*President Michael noted that the letter that was sent to her by Local Waste Services did not have the list of recyclable items attached.*

*Ms. Kowalczyk described how the market has changed, which is why you are starting to see the information changing about what can be recycled. Initially, you could recycle more things but now China is not buying waste.*

*Mr. Myers stated how there are now certain items that are commonly believed to be recyclable, such as plastics, but not all plastics are recyclable. President Michael brought up how even items with the recyclable marking on them are not necessary recyclable.*

*Ms. Dorothy detailed how there have been efforts by SWACO, such as sending out magnets that describe what you can do. There was a Girl Scout project that partnered with the City*

*of Worthington to try to get the word out. However, it is an ongoing, ever evolving issue of knowing what can be recycled.*

*Mr. Greeson said that the City can work with Local Waste Services on their communications. We can also address this in one of the upcoming City newsletters. SWACO could be invited in to talk about all of this.*

*Mr. Myers described how his concern is that if it gets too expensive to recycle, we would have to drop out of the recycling business. He wants to make sure we are doing our best to ensure it is cost effective and continue to offer the service.*

*Mr. Greeson observed the challenge is to find markets. There has been a fair amount of work done studying how to get more of the materials that go in the landfill to markets.*

*Mr. Myers observed how there could be markets created, such as football fields with used tires.*

*Ms. Kowalczyk suggested how this just reiterates that we will have to educate folks on what can actually be dropped off and composted.*

**There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 03-2019 passed unanimously by a voice vote.**

**Ordinance No. 01-2019**

Adopting a Plan of Operation and Governance for the Electric Aggregation Program.

**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**

### Discussion Item(s)

- 2019 Grant Program for Community Groups

*Mr. Greeson explained how this is the time of the year that we begin to focus on the process by which we want to consider requests for funding from not for profit organizations in our community.*

*Ms. Stewart detailed how staff is seeking feedback from City Council as to whether the grant program should be continued as it has been administered in recent years or if there should be changes. The 2019 budget includes a little over \$33,000 in grant funding for non-profits in the Worthington community. Last year the money was spread across about*

*a dozen non-profits that had submitted for grant proceeds. Many of these awards are for fairly small dollar amounts in the grand scheme of the City's budget.*

*Distributed in Councilmember's packets are the application and materials that were sent out for the 2018 grant funding. Staff is seeking information as to whether Council would like to make any changes to the priorities from last year which were:*

- 1) Basic human necessities such as provision and/or clothing for people in need.*
- 2) Mental health services or community counseling to assist people with mental or social health issues*
- 3) Improvement to the Worthington community.*

*Ms. Stewart explained how a scoring matrix was included and that staff would like to know if Council wants to use the same process that involved a review committee.*

*Mr. Smith remarked how he had served on the review committee the past two years and he believes the matrix works well, especially with the group of people who were in the committee. There was some subjectivity there, but by and large, it was an objective outcome based upon the matrix and the folks who submitted applications.*

*Mr. Foust stated that he was involved in the committee two years prior and the matrix is working well. He echoed Mr. Smith's sentiments.*

*Ms. Kowalczyk agreed with Mr. Smith's thoughts and asked if we have gotten any feedback from the grantees about the process and whether there is some room for improvement. Ms. Stewart replied that we have not asked that question. If Council would like that feedback, we can put this on hold to get feedback from last year's process, or we can begin the incorporation of getting feedback into the program now. Ms. Kowalczyk explained how she just wanted to make sure we had not received any negative feedback through the existing process, however it cannot hurt to get feedback going forward. She stated that she does not want to hold up the process. Ms. Stewart responded that she has not received any unsolicited criticism, usually she receives questions about how quickly the process will move forward and how quickly funds will be dispersed because it does take a little bit of time from the receipt of applications, having the review committee go through them, then to bring recommendations back to the City Council. The groups appreciate the City's support and at this time we are sending out requests for them to report on how they utilized the 2018 funding. We will reach out to each of the 12 groups that received funding and ask them for a report and any results/measures on the impact of the funding.*

*President Michael asked if Council would get a copy of that and Ms. Stewart replied that would be distributed.*

**MOTION** Mr. Foust moved, Mr. Robinson seconded a motion to adopt the procedure for 2019 to be the same as was done in the past.

**The aforementioned motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.**

*Ms. Stewart described how the review committee includes two representatives of City Council, a representative of the Griswold Center, a representative from the schools, and from the Community Relations Commission. She asked if City Council was prepared to designate two Council representatives. President Michael asked if there were volunteers to be the Council representatives on the review committee. Ms. Kowalczyk and Mr. Smith volunteered to be the two City Council Representatives.*

**The aforementioned appointments passed unanimously by a voice vote.**

*Mr. Greeson noted how a couple of memorandums were given to Council in their agenda package and meetings will be scheduled in coming weeks to discuss those topics. One relates to the upcoming Ohio State Airport master planning process and public meetings. The other pertains to the community visioning report from Dr. Marlowe who is helping to develop processes relating to UMCH and community visioning.*

*A flyer was placed at Councilmembers' seats from the Community Relations Commissions (CRC) who once again is organizing and providing the volunteer support for the Martin Luther King Day community celebration.*

*Members of the CRC and staff with the help of Reverend Cyndy Garn began some conversations regarding the non-discrimination ordinance proposal from the CRC. Reverend Garn has helped us gather members of the clergy. There has been one meeting and will probably be another to reach more members of our faith organizations and then brief them on the CRC's recommendation. There will also be outreach to businesses, and engagement with the Chamber of Commerce. Council will be kept up to date with the progress.*

*The Convention and Visitors Bureau meets next Friday, and staff has been working with them. This is a follow-up to the dissolution conversation that occurred as part of the budget process. We are working with them to develop some more formal corporate dissolution documents. Coordination has occurred with the State Auditor's office and with the Old Worthington Partnership. We believe by the end of the first quarter we will have successfully worked with them to affect that transition. Legislation will be brought to Council in late January to introduce for consideration in early February that will essentially authorize us to accept the funds that are left from the CVB and authorize us to disperse them to the Partnership, who will have a proposal that explains how those funds will be used.*

*Lastly, one of the projects that was worked on in 2018 that has languished a little, is the mural research that was conducted. The intention is to bring that discussion back next week for the Committee of the Whole meeting. We would not be asking for any action. The mural policy research was an item that was worked on in 2018 but did not yet have Council conversation. We would like to put that on the agenda for Mr. Brown and his team to overview what the task force discovered. That information will be distributed.*

*Mr. Greeson asked for an executive session to discuss topics that include considering the purchase of property for public purposes, to conference with an attorney for the City concerning disputes involving the City that are the subject of pending or imminent court action, and to consider negotiations for economic development assistance.*

## **REPORT OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**

*Mr. Lindsey noted for the benefit of the public and of Council, the statutorily required public hearings regarding the electric aggregation program are scheduled for January 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM and 6:30 PM at the Griswold Center. Energy Alliances will be available to answer any questions regarding this stage of the process.*

*Mr. Robinson brought up the proposed visioning process from Analytica. He believes that most of his fellow Councilmembers view this as a matter of the highest importance for their work this coming year. The visioning process in general could be this Council's biggest legacy, determining so many decisions for our city in coming years. He asserted that his immediate question is with process being proposed for Council prior to the upcoming retreat, regarding our discussions and decisions.*

*As currently planned, it appears the only discussions that Council will have prior to the retreat will be individual phone calls with Dr. Marlowe in which each Councilmember will share their thinking for an hour or so, yet with no public discussion among Councilmembers prior to the retreat. He asked why wait and delay the real work of Council sharing ideas amongst each other and benefitting from different perspectives. By only speaking with Dr. Marlowe and then going into the retreat, we are likely to diminish the productivity of Council's efforts at the retreat. To have us discuss beforehand, amongst ourselves, this decisive topic, he believes we would begin the process of mutual understanding.*

*Further, it seems strange that Dr. Marlowe, who has not yet been hired, would be the only person to have the benefit of knowing all of Council's thinking. Most importantly, the public will not know what Council is thinking either. He would rather it be that Dr. Marlowe not sit in the catbird seat, with the authoritative voice implied in that. By doing this, sharing only with him individually, with only him knowing all of that, we would be misconstruing the roles of facilitator and Council and where the locus of understanding and decision making really resides. He believes it would behoove us to discuss at Council, in the following weeks, Analytica's proposal so when we talk with Dr. Marlowe, there will be some benefit of understanding what each other thinks, beginning the process that needs to take place if there is going to be resolution prior to the retreat.*

*President Michael asked other Councilmembers for their comments. She described how in past retreats, the facilitator meets with each of the Councilmembers individually to help them figure out direction and what things are in common and not in common. It has traditionally been done that way and not with everybody together. This is a suggestion to do something different and she is not against it. She wondered what other Councilmembers thought.*

*Mr. Robinson expressed that there is a distinction between preparation for the retreat and discussion of this proposal. He is all for discussing with him before the retreat what Councilmembers think individually and as a group. President Michael explained that what he is going to talk with each Councilmember about is what they want to get out of the retreat, goals and objectives, and what is important to each Councilmember.*

*Mr. Greeson described what is scheduled with Dr. Marlowe has two purposes. First, is the standard practice of interviewing Councilmembers before the retreat. The second piece of that, for efficiency purposes, is to make sure he is available to Councilmembers to answer questions about the process and to provide comments to them. He believes that his recommendations remain as a draft because he wanted to circulate them and give the opportunity to talk to him privately and publicly about it before finalization. It would normally be ideal to have Dr. Marlowe in person to talk about the document in a public setting in addition to being able to talk individually. From a scheduling standpoint, our Council meetings and his other client commitments did not work, so we were unable to get him up here prior to the retreat. He does believe that there are some advantages to having the author of the recommendations here as part of the Council conversation, so in his conversation with Dr. Marlowe, it was discussed to devote a portion of the retreat to community visioning and the UMCH scenario process. If Council desires to talk about it, it would probably be done without Dr. Marlowe here.*

*Mr. Foust commented that, after reading Mr. Greeson's memo, his only concern is that by distributing the document, he questioned if it conveys that Council has blessed this process because he is not there yet. Mr. Greeson responded no. He would couch it as an evolutionary process. President Michael explained how it would be nice to have other community groups and organization's thoughts on it, so we are not only considering Council's viewpoints. We are reaching out to the community for other thoughts because this is such an important process.*

*Mr. Myers stated that he is supportive of the process as it is currently laid out. He does not look at his conversation with Dr. Marlowe as him somehow hoarding all of the information to his disadvantage. It is his opportunity to ask questions and clarify some of the things that Dr. Marlowe said. As for the Council retreat, the last retreat was not well facilitated. Typically retreats have been to set priorities for the next year and for the long term. He does not see how we can divorce a discussion of this from the retreat topic. They are one and the same, this will frame it. We will not adopt this at the retreat, it will be adopted at a session. After the retreat, he imagines that there will be at least two more meetings where this will be discussed. He stated that personally, it is much easier for him to discuss important topics at the retreat because it is an open, freewheeling, more uninhibited discourse. We are much more productive at the retreat than at Council meetings. He is not in the position currently, after reading it once, to be able to say what he likes and does not like. There are some things that logistically he does not care for and some operational things he does not care for. There are other things that he does like. He likes the process as it lays out now. The retreat is a public meeting, the press has been in attendance before, there have been members of the public there in the past. It is not like*

*Council is behind closed doors. He does not see this being formally adopted until sometime in March at the earliest. It will involve that much discussion and needs time to ferment.*

*Mr. Smith responded to Mr. Myers that is case in point what Mr. Robinson is saying. His interpretation of what Mr. Robinson is saying is to have these conversations starting today leading up to the retreat will help to clarify each other's meanings. He sees the retreat as more of figuring out the details and chiseling out action items for what the visioning process is specifically as opposed to philosophically. Mr. Myers asked if he was saying that we have a plan in place before the retreat. Mr. Smith stated that members get these conversations out of the way prior. Mr. Myers asked what was meant by, "These conversations." Mr. Smith responded philosophically what things means, what are definitions of certain words, expectations of the visioning process, and what are the priorities within those priorities. Mr. Myers replied that it seems to him that we go to the source and ask the source what he means by those words. Mr. Smith observed that each Councilmember will have a different interpretation of how that plays out within a visioning process, regardless of what Dr. Marlowe meant it to be. He expressed that he is open to talking about this process because it is evolutionary, which he believes starts today.*

*Ms. Dorothy emphasized that she is not ready to talk about it. She is not in agreement with talking about it before the retreat and our public forum here at Council. Obviously, we have brought up some good ideas and begun talking about it, but there is a great deal of discussion and a big process to go through. She is not ready to do that at these Council meetings.*

*Ms. Kowalczyk stated that she does not know how much can be accomplished during these meetings. She thinks that Mr. Myers is correct that having a retreat that is primarily focused on this discussion will be more productive. She agreed with Ms. Dorothy that she is also not ready to discuss this right now. She is not sure that Council talking about it and then waiting to talk about it with the author, would not be talking about the same things all over again. She is open to doing either, but she is not sure if we will accomplish much until the retreat by having this conversation.*

*Mr. Robinson said that if the expectation is that we will not make a decision at the retreat, then he is okay with viewing the retreat as the commencement of discussions and then taking as long thereafter as required. The only cost of that is that we are losing a month. He believes that we could have a discussion at Council that would be fruitful. If we all do not want to become contentious or get into the weeds too much, we could approach it with each Councilmember being free to make up to five minutes of comments as they currently see and understand the Marlowe documents. That could be a benign, gentle way to enter into the conversation.*

*Mr. Foust agreed that he likes the discussion of three to five minutes of public comments from Councilmember who are so inclined at a time when they are ready to do so. He is intrigued by Mr. Myers' remarks and he would like to know prior to the retreat what some of his thoughts and concerns are. It would be helpful to formulate his own. He does have a comment or two which he will not bring up tonight, but it may be beneficial to get some*

*preliminary airing of what Council's thoughts are. He circled back to an earlier comment he made and asked Mr. Greeson to ensure that the word "draft" is incorporated in a big way if this document is put out for all. Mr. Greeson responded he would do that, and the document will be distributed because there will be public interest in it.*

*Mr. Smith brought up his final thoughts and reminded everyone that Council is the author of the process. Dr. Marlowe was brought in six to eight months ago to help see what that authorship might look like as an initial step to a process. That needs to be kept in mind, not waiting for somebody else's interpretation of what we should do with our city.*

*Mr. Myers acknowledged regarding the request for a five-minute comment, that is what is being done right now. That availability is at any meeting we want. As far as wasting a month, this has been going on for over three years. He is not in any great hurry at this point. As far as a facilitator and help from the outside, we tried to do this alone before and it was messed up miserably. He welcomes the outside help, so he does not stumble again. He does not want to put the horse ahead of the cart and would like to take this slow and methodically. He likes the discussions that are had at the retreat. There will be portions of this that will be very contentious, and we might get angry. That is a lot easier to do when sitting across the table from each other and we have to shake hands together when it is all done. In Council meetings it is a lot easier to throw barbs at each other. The retreat is one of the most important and productive things that Council does, where all of the big decisions are made.*

*President Michael expressed that she does not want our consultant to be so worried like the last one was to shut it down quickly. If something needs to be finished or resolved, she wants the ability to stay longer if necessary. She wondered if this needs to be an agenda item starting in January or February.*

*Mr. Foust suggested that there be a summarized bullet point list of the takeaways from Dr. Marlowe's phone call conversations with Councilmembers. It might be helpful. He asked Mr. Myers for his thoughts. Mr. Myers responded that he is not sure he will be critiquing the plan with Dr. Marlowe, he may be using more as an information gathering call. He will critique the plan with Council.*

*Mr. Myers asked when we think Dr. Marlowe can have his portion of this wrapped up and when these conversation with Councilmembers would be happening. Mr. Greeson responded that Mr. Barnhardt has been working to contact Councilmembers to book the phone conference and they have mostly been scheduled. He knows that Dr. Marlowe will welcome Council's questions and feedback. Having worked with him before, it is about creating processes for the communities.*

*Mr. Robinson asked if we know when we will decide whether Council hires Analytica to proceed and if that decision will be made subsequent to the retreat. President Michael replied that she would think so.*

*Mr. Smith remembered that there had been discussion at one time about getting things like the retreat and the MLK Day Celebration on video. He asked if that is something that is part of the package with Swag-It or if it is out of the question because it would be off-site.*

*Mr. Greeson replied that is not part of our package with Swag-It who is responsible for the Council streaming product.*

*Ms. Dorothy thanked Parks and Recreation and Service and Engineering for helping her answer a question she had from a resident this weekend. They answered very quickly and had someone go out on-site and help explain the situation and resolve it in less than 48-hours.*

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION** Mr. Myers moved, Ms. Dorothy seconded a motion to meet in Executive Session to consider the purchase of property for public purposes, to conference with an attorney for the City concerning disputes involving the City that are the subject of pending or imminent court action, and to consider negotiations for economic development assistance.

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

<b>Yes</b>	<b>7</b>	Foust, Smith, Robinson, Kowalczyk, Dorothy, Myers, and Michael
<b>No</b>	<b>0</b>	

Council recessed at 8:37 p.m. from the Regular meeting session.

**MOTION** Mr. Myers moved, Mr. Robinson seconded a motion to return to open session at 9:36 p.m.

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** Ms. Dorothy moved, Ms. Kowalczyk seconded a motion to adjourn.

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

President Michael declared the meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

/s/ D. Kay Thress  
Clerk of Council

*APPROVED by the City Council, this  
22<sup>nd</sup> day of January, 2019.*

/s/ Bonnie D. Michael  
Council President