



**CITY OF WORTHINGTON**  
**Worthington City Council Minutes**  
February 19, 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 Tuesday, February 19, 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, Clerk of Council D. Kay Thress

There were eleven visitors present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Michael invited all to stand as Wesley Sturtevant, Gabe Drake, and Luke Bowman from Webelo Pack 333 presented the colors and led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Afterwards she thanked the scouts, two from Evening Street Elementary school and one from Wilson Hill as well as their den leader Kevin Sturtevant for being a part of tonight's meeting in this special way.

**VISITOR COMMENTS**

There were no comments provided.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

- Regular Meeting – February 4, 2019
- Committee of the Whole Meeting – February 11, 2019

**MOTION** Ms. Kowalczyk moved and Ms. Dorothy seconded a motion to approve the aforementioned meeting minutes as presented.

**There being no comments or corrections, the motion to approve the minutes as presented carried unanimously by a voice vote.**

**NEW LEGISLATION TO BE INTRODUCED**

**Resolution No. 08-2019** Re-Appointing Jerry Katz and Scott Heitkamp to the Worthington Board of Tax Review.

**Introduced by Mr. Myers.**

**MOTION** Mr. Smith made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 08-2019. The motion was seconded by Mr. Foust.

*President Michael indicated that these re-appointments are of individuals who had previously been through the interview process. This is the formal approval of their appointments.*

**There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 08-2019 passed unanimously by a voice vote.**

**Resolution No. 09-2019** Re-Appointing Rachael Dorothy and Michael Bates to the Worthington Community Reinvestment Area Housing Council.

**Introduced by Mr. Robinson.**

**MOTION** Ms. Kowalczyk made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 09-2019. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dorothy.

**There being no comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 09-2019 passed unanimously by a voice vote.**

**Resolution No. 10-2019** City Council Statement Regarding Future Development and a Commitment to a Resident-Centered Public Process to Understand the Will of the People.

**Introduced by Mr. Foust.**

**MOTION** Mr. Smith made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 10-2019. The motion was seconded by Mr. Myers.

*Mr. Foust commented that members have already unanimously agreed to the visioning process. In the weeks to come we will spend significant time identifying the “What” we are going to do and the “How” we are going to do it. As he has been reflecting on the awareness over the last four years, there is some lack of trust between residents and the City’s leadership. He expressed that he thinks it is appropriate that Councilmembers make some simple declarations stating the “Why”. He would respectfully submit this resolution in the spirit of another gesture aimed at healing and he asks for Councilmembers’ consideration.*

*Ms. Kowalczyk explained that she believes it is a great idea to have a resolution at this time that states we have an intent to engage in a visioning process. When looking at it, this would be a great opportunity to make it meaningful, including and formalizing what our visioning process is. She detailed how she went back and looked at the motion that was made at the very first meeting of January 2018 and thought how more language could be incorporated to make this a bit broader than the current focus which is primarily on development. She stated her belief that there is a bigger picture that this could capture, and it should have some concrete steps such as when this process could be completed and a little more information on the process. Currently it is a statement as Mr. Foust said, but really this is a great opportunity to formalize what we have been working on for a year and what we continue to move forward on.*

*President Michael explained how we have a revised resolution from what was sent out. The title of the revised resolution is, “City Council Statement Regarding Future Development and a Commitment to a Citizen-Led, Comprehensive Visioning Process to Understand the Will of the People.”*

*Ms. Kowalczyk explained how she has several specific suggestions for this resolution. She detailed her first suggestion which is to start with, “Whereas, the City Wishes to Develop a Renewed Vision for the Future of Worthington,” which that language was directly from the previously mentioned motion. In Section One she read, “That the Worthington City Council Hereby Resolves to Engage in a Citizen-Led Comprehensive Visioning Process to Include All Stakeholders to Gain a Thorough Understanding of a Broad Cross-section Representing the Will of the People,” so that it now includes the phrase “To Include All Stakeholders.” In Section two she read, “That We Further Resolve to Incorporate the Results of the Comprehensive Visioning Process to Develop a Statement of Goals to be Accomplished and to Further Future Conversations and Activities as We Set Community Priorities and Consider Development Plans and Opportunities for Now and the Foreseeable Future.” Finally, she explained how she does not have language for this but suggested that there be a section three that stated that Council commits to or expects to have the Community Visioning process completed by a reasonable date that can be accomplished. This would commit to having a firm timeframe and to move the process forward.*

*Mr. Robinson explained that everything Ms. Kowalczyk has said sounds reasonable to him with the exception of the last statement about the timing. That is something that he is*

*confident will be discussed and clearly decided upon. For the resolution, he is not sure if it fits with the spirit of it.*

*President Michael asked Ms. Kowalczyk to reread her suggestions. Ms. Kowalczyk repeated her first suggestion for the first statement. Ms. Dorothy clarified that was from Council original proposal. Ms. Kowalczyk repeated her suggestions for Section One, inserting language, "To Include All Stakeholders."*

*Mr. Robinson expressed how when he hears the word stakeholders, that term is often used to refer to outside parties. He asked if it is being used to encompass all elements of the population in the City. Ms. Kowalczyk said that is correct and it was articulated in Council's motion to include the schools and the business community in our visioning process. Her intent would be to include that as part of this statement because that is the intent of the visioning process. They have a stake in our community. Mr. Robinson asked about if they do not live here. Ms. Kowalczyk replied that they conduct business here, their employees come to work here every day, our schools are here. All of those people have a stake in the community. Employers have a stake in how people get to their business. Mr. Robinson replied that he understands that, but he does not know whether this raises big issues in regard to the actual visioning process itself and whether they should be accorded equal status to someone who is a resident that lives in the City. Ms. Kowalczyk noted how Council has already voted on the motion that included that language stating the intent to include them in the process. Mr. Robinson asked when that motion was. Ms. Kowalczyk stated she believes it is the meeting of January 2, 2018.*

*Mr. Foust remarked how he heard Mr. Robinson include in his understanding of Ms. Kowalczyk's comments the word developers, but he did not hear from Ms. Kowalczyk if she was in fact suggesting developers be included as a part of that stakeholders' group. Ms. Kowalczyk laid out the language in the motion that included, but not limited to concerned citizen groups, the library, the school district, and the business community. That is what she is proposing.*

*President Michael brought up how when someone signs up for parks and rec, a resident is someone who lives or works in the community.*

*Mr. Robinson stated that he is fine with that language in this resolution, but he is sure Council will be talking about this and debating about it again. Just because we used certain language a year ago, he does not believe that holds us to the same understanding today. Ms. Kowalczyk emphasized that is why we are having this discussion, if we are doing a resolution, she wants Council to have the same intent that we voted on something and accepted it like was done a year ago.*

*Mr. Smith detailed what worked for the State with Workers Compensation was using the term employers and workers. Maybe that is the wording that could be used as opposed to business community. Ms. Kowalczyk said that she used all stakeholders, but if you want to use the language included but not limited to, we can do that as well.*

*Mr. Foust expressed his appreciation for where Ms. Kowalczyk is trying to go with this. However, he would go back to his first comment that we will spend a great deal of time talking about what we are going to do, how we are going to do it, and when we are going to do it. His purpose here is nothing more than a simple statement of why. Everything else follows that. Once you understand why we are doing what we are doing, the process will be worked on. He explained how we received a document from City Staff that was three pages that had taken what he did, blossoming it into a much bigger plan. All that needs to happen, but this is a very simple, basic statement trying to get to, "Why?" The more things we try to hang on it, the clumsier it becomes. Some of the suggested tweaks are in order, but for example with the Section 3 comment, you try to get down to a timeframe. That is a how and when, which muddies the water. If he has his druthers, it would be a statement of "Why" for the purpose of starting that healing process that has not had much done about it in three and a half years.*

*Ms. Kowalczyk proposed that she is willing to withdraw her suggestion on timelines. She explained how when talking about this as a simple document that is directed towards why, you are talking about the Community Visioning process, and the "Why" for her is bigger than determining what people's interests are in development. We want to determine what interests, values, and wishes our community has in moving forward. It is helping us to set priorities, not just development priorities, but other priorities. In the suggestions she has made, it is to make this resolution where we are starting for the Community Visioning process. She goes back to her other previously stated suggestions.*

*Mr. Foust explained how he goes back to Council, asking if a statement of goals is the expected outcome, or is it guidelines, or is it simple understanding. He believes we are kind of back to "What."*

*Mr. Myers stated that he agrees with Ms. Kowalczyk to the extent that the visioning process is not only development, it is about setting priorities. Development will be a part of that, but it is only one part. He agrees with her desire to expand that, but maybe "Goals" is not the right word. He is not a fan of the word stakeholder, it comes with a lot of baggage. Goal may not be quite the right word, but it works because we are trying to get a sense of where the City wants to be when it is handed off to our children. Mr. Foust suggested use of the word "Priorities." Mr. Myers said maybe the words "Goals" and "Priorities." Ms. Kowalczyk noted that she did use the word "Priorities." Mr. Myers agreed that putting a timeline on things was not going to happen.*

*Mr. Smith asked if there was an amendment to the resolution. Ms. Kowalczyk sated that she would make that an amendment. President Michael asked for more thoughts because right now it is just a discussion.*

*Ms. Dorothy agreed that she likes broadening this to renew our stated goal from last year but broaden it for a vision for the future of Worthington, she likes that language at the beginning.*

*Mr. Greeson asked as a procedural matter if Council needed to accept the strike through and underline amendments or if that is assumed as part of the resolution. Staff distributed a different resolution with changes. President Michael explained how right now there is an amended version in front of Council that includes the strikes, underlines, and what Ms. Kowalczyk has suggested. Mr. Greeson clarified for the record that the motion is to accept all of those changes, including those passed out. President Michael said that is correct.*

*President Michael asked if the title of the resolution works. Mr. Foust suggested if there is some discomfort with narrowing it down to development, to remove the words, "...Future Development and..."*

*Mr. Robinson mentioned that he was not the author of this, and he is not sure what Mr. Foust's motive and overall understanding was. When he first read it, he responded favorably because his perception is that the visioning process itself was primarily motivated by development issues that have revealed or caused dissent and conflict within our community. He fully accepts that the visioning process is broad and encompassing, but he felt the primary function of this resolution was to make a statement to the public that we as a Council understand that there have been disagreements, misunderstandings, lack of trust, lack of listening, and this was a way of communicating that we as a body embarking upon a visioning process understand that. We are committed to turning the page and doing things differently. The resolution now is evolving into a general statement about the vision process, which he is okay with, but the primary focus as he read it was to address the serious conflicts in the community. He expressed how he favors keeping the terms "Future Development" in there. The first "Whereas" as expressed by Ms. Kowalczyk seems overly broad and he is not sure if the City actually wishes to develop a new vision for the future of the community. It seems expansive. President Michael asked if Mr. Robinson would be more comfortable leaving within the title, "...Future Development and..." Mr. Robinson responded that he would be more comfortable with that. Again, to the first point, he asked if we are indeed developing a new vision.*

*Mr. Myers asserted that he believes we are developing a new vision. We are going back to square one on everything and he would submit that development is not the only thing that is controversial and divided this town in the past few years. Things such as noise, sidewalks, parks, and others have caused division and filled the Council Chamber as much as the United Methodist Children's Home. It is broader and development is going to be an important part of that, but he does not want us to just make the visioning process about four or five parcels in this town. It has to be about the whole town and looking at the things that we think are important to have. What kind of jobs would we want to attract? Where do we see our downtown business district in 20 years? Much has changed just in his nine years on Council. There is so much more to it than just development, even though development will play a big role. He likes it the way it is now.*

*Mr. Robinson asked what the purpose of the resolution is. Ms. Kowalczyk replied that she sees it as a way to formally introduce our Community Visioning process. We have not really put anything on paper, in writing, that has been voted on saying we are moving forward. President Michael expressed that we want to listen to the public and are using a*

*citizen-led visioning process to reach out to the community and hear what they feel and say in order to establish the priorities for the future of our City. Mr. Robinson said that he is sold. Mr. Myers described how he understands there is a difference in opinion on what this is supposed to be doing. Mr. Robinson stated he is not so sure about that and he accepts the description of the visioning process. Mr. Foust expressed that it was and still is his intent to somehow move us towards healing. He brought up how Councilmembers in the past were keenly aware of a break in the trust and they were scratching their heads. The most important thing is to recognize this chance to make a clear statement it is about healing. Ms. Kowalczyk asserted that you cannot make a better statement about trust than saying you will listen to people and hear their concerns.*

**MOTION** Ms. Kowalczyk moved, seconded by Mr. Smith to amend Resolution No. 10-2019 to include all the changes that were underlined and sent out in the revised document plus all the changes that are on the screen.

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

**There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 10-2019 (As Amended) passed unanimously by a voice vote.**

**Ordinance No. 05-2019** An Ordinance to Revise the Codified Ordinances by Adopting Current Replacement Pages.

**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)

- Review Report from 2019 Worthington City Council Retreat

*Mr. Greeson thanked members for their healthy discussion on the previous resolution. Councilmembers are action oriented people and sometimes talking about future process can seem not very action oriented, but you are laying the groundwork for a very successful endeavor.*

*He explained how after the retreat it was important to issue notes and a report on that. Tonight, we would like Council to review, discuss, and affirm this report and decide whether the notes and report appropriately portray the conclusions you came to at the retreat. If you are comfortable, you can affirm it by a simple motion with or without amendments. Before you get into discussing the retreat report content, he wanted to touch base on how staff will follow-up on what was learned at the retreat.*

*First, staff will bring a slightly revised version of the Council expectations document. This is Council's document that was talked about Friday night and there was a small tweak made that was reflected in the report. We will bring that back to Council for consideration at the first meeting in March. For that meeting we will have the agenda out on Thursday. At the March Committee of the Whole Meeting, we will start a practice that was requested to schedule time for Council to discuss items they may want to place on the agenda and how those might relate to established priorities or schedules. Additionally, we are going to prepare for that meeting a "Look Ahead" agenda that will capture a list of substantive agenda items in the month ahead. Most importantly, we are beginning some staff conversations about how to follow up on the priority worklist items. He does not know exactly how that will work because there is a great deal of content. We will be holding those internal discussions to develop a strategy and schedule for Committee of the Whole presentations that will be brought back to Council for feedback. We will also be asking for some clarification, there were items categorized as "Timing Driven by Others". Some fell off the list to be reacted to as they come up, while there were others you wanted us to be more proactive on. We will need to seek some clarification for what that meant exactly.*

*Mr. Foust requested clarification on those four items as well. These were Boundless, COTA Turnaround, NCR, and SwimInc. He asked where we left it and where those four intertwine with the things that are above. He asked how we know what staff's priorities are for those four items versus the stuff above. Mr. Greeson acknowledged that staff does not know from the retreat discussion. He recommends that staff and Council spend some time, thinking about ways that we could be proactive, coming back to ask Council if that is what you want as far as productivity on these issues and to discuss how those fit with the priority worklist items. Mr. Foust asked if we cannot attach a relative importance or priority because we are comparing dissimilar things. Mr. Greeson agreed.*

*President Michael identified how one of the things mentioned at the retreat was to ask SwimInc to come in and provide an update.*

*Mr. Myers noted his appreciation for the fact that we delineated clear priorities for the next year. He understands that those priorities will form Committee of the Whole Meetings. Those proactive, driven by others might also be included in that as well. He also read from that a renewed commitment to use the Committee of the Whole meetings for more in-depth discussion.*

**MOTION** Ms. Kowalczyk moved, seconded by Ms. Dorothy to accept the minutes and notes of the retreat.

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

#### Discussion Item

- Community Visioning Project

*Mr. Greeson expressed how he wanted to talk a little about the materials that members can use or not use and then make a couple of remarks on some issues.*

*Staff laid out some materials to assist in the dialog as you move forward. There is a draft statement of purpose about the process. The origin of that statement came from interviewing members about the visioning process in mid last year. He wrote a memo that was shared at a Council meeting that contained several themes. He took those and made some additions such as a preamble, as well as adding a bullet about development opportunities. Like the earlier resolution, it consists of a number of themes that came from conversations with Council members and may or may not reflect where you are today about this process.*

*Information from Dr. Marlowe's process architecture recommendations about a Committee Charter were also included. This is information can be used as part of Councilmember's deliberations but, as we talk about a visioning committee and when discussing the purpose of that committee, it is imperative to lay out what your expectations are of that committee, the role of its officers, et cetera.*

*Finally, there is some information that Dr. Marlowe provided in his report and more specifically some information that Councilmember Smith had provided relating to recommendations about how you could approach the committee structure at any point in the process.*

*There are plenty of materials to help guide the discussion for Councilmembers and staff will assist in any way that members desire. He stated that the goal, if we are going to have a successful process is to reach common City Council agreement on these important items.*

*In the early steps, Mr. Greeson thinks you should be thinking about and having Council define its role in the process. That has started tonight with the resolution and talking about these documents. You will need to talk about the role of the committee and discuss the committee charter. You should also talk about the role of staff and eventually the role of a facilitator, if members choose to use one. While you do not have to decide all of that tonight, there is the need to be clear on all those things before launching the process because those things will make the process successful.*

*If Council desires or plans to use a facilitator, he thinks it would be good to reach that conclusion sometime soon. You will want that person or that team of people to benefit from Council's conversation, to advise you and be a part of working with you on developing this effort. Since the UMCH property resolution process was separated from the Community Visioning Process, it may be appropriate if you desire to use a facilitator, to issue a Request for Qualification (RFQ) and cost base proposals for facilitation services.*

*President Michael asked if he had a list of people that could be asked to submit an RFP/RFQ. Mr. Greeson replied that when we approach these types of projects there will be people we are familiar with in the marketplace, regionally, statewide and nationally.*

*Often, we will ask Council and other community partners for suggestions as we are not the only ones in need of this type of service.*

*President Michael commented that she is trying to figure out where to begin because this is a huge process.*

*Mr. Myers suggested asking if members want to use a facilitator for this. He asserted his belief that we should have one, at least on the front end to help guide Councilmembers with some of the drafting requirements, because they have done it before. Once it is handed over, it would be someone to keep the group focused, keeping them on task, not to control the group but rather to guide them.*

*Mr. Foust proposed taking a quick poll to see the desire of Council on this subject.*

At Mr. Foust's suggestion a quick poll was taken. The results found that all members favored the use of a facilitator. The following additional comments were provided.

*Mr. Smith expressed that the crucial part to having a facilitator is in the first committee meeting since that committee does not yet have a leader, a chair, or leadership. He affirmed for President Michael that it would be someone for just one meeting.*

*Mr. Myers responded he is in favor of a facilitator, an expert who has done this before, so we don't have to reinvest the wheel. He would like a facilitator who can provide samples of items such as charter documents that he can digest and manipulate. He would like a facilitator to head that.*

*Ms. Dorothy explained how she helped go through some revisions of our comprehensive plan, but she would need some facilitation help through this process.*

*Ms. Kowalczyk agreed with Mr. Myers and Ms. Dorothy. She thinks members would benefit from a facilitator that has some experience and provide recommendations and guidance to help keep them on task and move this project forward.*

*Mr. Robinson thinks a facilitator would be a good idea too. His sense is that Council wants someone who would do some of the work, the focal point and keep members on task. This would be more up front than later. He would be interested in looking at a few resumes and talking to a few folks before making a quick decision as not to delay Council too much.*

*Mr. Myers thinks if members asked for an RFQ, in that RFQ we can ask for some ideas as to how they would do it. So, we can have a measuring sticks as to somewhere between what Mr. Smith is proposing and maybe something at the other extreme. We can see what these experts propose and can then select the process instead of the person.*

*Mr. Robinson asked how quickly members could receive the replies. Mr. Greeson responded that he has heard two different things. He heard RFP/RFQ or some blend. He thinks we could have a draft ready for Council's approval at the first meeting in March.*

*That is a separate question from what Mr. Robinson asked, which raised the issue of maybe just getting a handful of qualified people and interviewing them possibly without the formal RFP process. He asked if his understanding of the comment is correct. Mr. Robinson replied that he thinks at some point Council members would want to meet and interview them and he asked which comes first. Mr. Greeson replied that he thinks most consultants would want three weeks to a month to respond to the RFP and have back on the agenda. President Michael concluded that the March meeting has the RFP and proposals would be ready to review at the first or second meeting of April. Mr. Greeson pointed out there is work that can be achieved in the meantime.*

*Mr. Foust commented that this discussion went in a different direction than what he was initially thinking. He thought members were talking about a tour guide for the committee itself. Someone to help the committee get legs, for more than just a meeting, to help the committee through the process or at least up to the point that they feel they can stand on their own. He did not see it as a guide for Council.*

*Mr. Myers believes that it is both. He doesn't see why Council can't be working on drafting things now. Dr. Marlowe has already said that the Committee should be asking certain questions of the public. That could be in the committee's charter. He has added many questions as well. It would be nice if we have that almost done, and we have someone we can bounce those final ideas off. Then when the committee takes it the facilitator can help get the committee started and then occasionally touch back with that committee again. The facilitator does not have to be at every meeting.*

*President Michael shared if we want this visioning process to be citizen led, and the citizens are really deciding it, it is nice for them to have an outside facilitator to assist the group. Mr. Robinson agreed. He asked if 30 days is a typical period to give folks to reply. He asked if it could be shortened to two weeks. Mr. Greeson replied that we do not do this often. It might be a week before they see it, which would only give them three weeks to develop a meaningful response. We could shorten it, but that might affect the quality in the number of responses.*

*President Michael suggested in the meantime we could continue working down the path. She hears the Council wanting to work on this project every meeting to keep the process moving forward.*

*Mr. Greeson maintained that we do not want to affect the quality or number of responses, but we could go ahead and signal to people this is coming.*

*Mr. Myers iterated that Council wants it done by end of year, but we have not committed to that. His biggest concern is that we do not want to rush this. If it takes 18 months instead of 12 months, that is okay. We need to get it right. If we are actually going to be setting the course for Worthington over the next 20 years, he does not know if a couple weeks extra to get the right person onboard is going to make much of a difference.*

*President Michael stated that she believes it is important as we move into the summer months that people feel that something is out there and happening. She agrees with Mr. Myers that a couple weeks does not make much of a difference on something this important. We want to find someone who is high quality and who we are comfortable with.*

*Mr. Myers discussed how we already have a frontrunner that we have already used. That is going to be the standard as far as he is concerned. Is there someone who is more objective, with a better plan, more local, or whatever Council decides is the priority. Some of our thought process we have already been through with the facilitator we already have.*

*Mr. Foust explained how we have all had a great deal of time with Dr. Marlowe. He asked if there is any appetite to just move forward with him.*

*Mr. Robinson objected to that, emphasizing that there should be no former ties with staff or Councilmembers. Dr. Marlowe's expertise is more with conflict resolution and there are others with an expertise in visioning. He is interested in talking with persons who are more local in Ohio.*

*Ms. Kowalczyk agreed that Dr. Marlowe was able to get Council to agree to a number of things, so he has some great skills that have been exhibited and she thinks highly of the work that he has done however, having someone more local would be easier to schedule.*

*President Michael explained how she is hearing that Council would like to include Dr. Marlowe in the group of people, but also looking at different entities that may be more local in nature.*

*Mr. Foust mentioned how he likes the suggestion from staff, he thinks we can look to staff to capture a paragraph or two of what the RFP will look like and get that out in advance. He asked if other Councilmembers were comfortable with staff putting some advance notice out that this is coming, getting the process jumpstarted.*

Councilmembers expressed that they agreed.

*Mr. Myers asked if anyone wants to take a shot at how to select the committee members.*

*Mr. Smith remarked how he has put together a variety of items to help move this forward as a starting point. He believes that Councilmembers could begin to discuss the selection process for committee members. We can resolve tonight the mission of the committee. Before we determine soliciting for applications, we need to solidify their job descriptions.*

*Mr. Myers expressed he was offended by the first sentence of Mr. Smith's job description, cutting out a significant portion from the process with the requirement to be around in ten years. When asked by Mr. Smith if he intends to be around in ten years, Mr. Myers replied that he did not know.*

*When asked by President Michael the rationale for someone to be here for the next ten years, Mr. Smith stated he struggled with it, but he included the requirement to see Councilmember's reactions. He also considered having a requirement for committee members to have lived here for X number of years but decided to take that out. He expressed how he is happy to delete that.*

*Mr. Myers explained how he was being partially facetious with his being offended, but he does struggle with the residency requirement. It is probably right, but it would make sense to have someone from Worthington Industries be a part of this. They may not be a Worthington resident, but may be the right person to represent that portion of the city.*

*Mr. Smith described how as part of the architectural process that will be created with the help of a facilitator, we will determine who the committee members will reach out to and what kind of ad hoc committees will represent those business interests. He does not disagree with Mr. Myers, but he also does not think they should be on the committee if they are not a resident.*

*Ms. Dorothy discussed how she is struggling with the residency requirement also. We are already part of a really segregated area in the whole of Central Ohio as we are 92% white while Franklin County is 65%. We have a higher socioeconomic status and enjoy many opportunities because of that, but this is a growing region. She discussed what if any influence people who do not live here should have and how much are we excluding people from being able to live here. For example, she explained how Colonial Hills was platted with race as a requirement. There are already numerous institutional influences and who is a residence. She asked if that should be addressed in the residency requirements.*

*President Michael detailed how she wants to start slightly difference. She thinks Council should talk about how the committee is structured. If we are talking about seven people as the basis, we might have one thought of who serves, if we are talking 21, we may have a different view on the qualifications of who should serve.*

*Mr. Foust circled back to Mr. Myers' comment and trying to address this issue of ten years of residency. He asked what if it were that committee members should demonstrate a meaningful and enduring tie to the Worthington community.*

*Mr. Robinson stated that Ms. Dorothy makes some excellent points. He thinks that a wide range of voices should be actively solicited and sought for visioning process. However, he thinks the committee should be comprised of people who live here.*

*Ms. Kowalczyk identified that whoever is appointed to this committee should be aware of these issues if we cannot specifically address them by how we appoint the committee. At least there is the education or awareness of wanting to be inclusive and that the committee recognizes implicit bias and what that brings to deciding who is talked to and how they reach out to people.*

Council members continued to discuss what part residency should play in the makeup of the committee.

*Ms. Dorothy note that if we are only going to include residents, she wants to make sure the record reflect that the pool will be 92% white. Mr. Foust responded that he understands the reference. He supposes we are trying to discern that without question the reach of the visioning process should touch outside. As long as it is clear to the committee, the committee should be closer to Worthington than the overall reach of the visioning process*

*Mr. Smith believes a facilitator could help with those questions. Just to clarify, he asked if Ms. Dorothy was in favor of removing “resident” and putting something else in place. Ms. Dorothy remarked that she is quite lost in this process and wants a facilitator. She expressed that she was very concerned of having exclusively residents, but she does not have a good alternative.*

*President Michael said that she keeps coming back to how many people we want to have on the committee. That has something to do with the characteristics, not having the number of people. Dr. Marlowe came up with a process with seven committee members and seven alternates, and this is another process that has 21 people involved. She stated we should figure out the size and then figure out the qualifications.*

*Mr. Myers suggested backing up and he asked about the mission statement.*

#### Proposed Mission Statement from Councilmember Doug Smith

To develop and manage, in close consultation with City Council, a community outreach process, reaching at least 80 percent of Worthington residents, that informs, engages, and listens to the community members’ sense of our city’s identity and character, and their desires for our city’s near- and long-term future, resulting in a report articulating these findings.

*Mr. Robinson asked the rationale for 80%. Mr. Smith replied that historically we have had community polls/surveys that have a reached a portion of the residents and then there are inevitably folks on the other side of whatever the poll/survey says that say that is not accurate because you did not reach enough people or the right people. He thinks 80% is a good number to use because we have an 80% voter registration level in the City and 70 to 75% of residents vote in major elections and he used that as his benchmark. Mr. Myers suggested that the level of voting is usually closer to 50%. Mr. Smith responded in the 2016 presidential election that number in Worthington was 74%. We do not have to keep it exclusively for voters or registered voters, but that number shows that people are mobilized, interested and engaged in Worthington. If they can get 70 to 75% on one day, which is election day, he thinks we have several months to reach out and should be able to reach 80%*

*When asked by Ms. Dorothy if that includes people of all ages, Mr. Smith replied that he would hope we would include people of all ages.*

*Mr. Myers commented that if they could only prove, and he is assuming that they would have to have some metric that proves 80%, that they can only reach 79%, then we do not have a report and the committee is abolished. Mr. Smith remarked that he believes 80% is a goal, so whatever wording needs to be changed, could be.*

*Mr. Myers stated that he is always concerned when we put those kinds of hard benchmarks in. He would prefer softer language like: “a committee outreach project that would include scientifically viable sampling, public meetings, etc.) and spell it out that way instead of some hard language.*

*Mr. Foust questioned the notion of comparing ourselves and what we are trying to accomplish here to the year of a presidential election, and probably one of the most complex presidential elections of the last couple of decades. He asked if 50% is a little realistic in terms of voter participation. Mr. Smith responded that it is consistent for presidential elections years he has researched. Mr. Foust said he is not discussing presidential elections.*

*President Michael explained that this visioning process will not reach a national level of priority to many of the residents. In order to reach them it is going to take something different than just expecting them to come out. Mr. Smith agreed that was correct.*

*Mr. Myers agreed that some kind of benchmark is needed but he thinks the 80% is too strong. When this process is complete there has to be a perception that this committee’s report is valid because it touched as many people as possible.*

*Mr. Foust asked if members could look to those who do this for a living. Maybe it is with the consultant who is also the statistician who says we are looking at a 98% confidence level +/- 10%. In order to get there with 14,000 people you need to sample 1,000. Mr. Myers acknowledged it as reaching a confidence level. That is a different thing than actually touching 80%. Mr. Foust recognized that might underchallenge us but if we then say that we also want to make sure that we have that confidence level across the seven or eight or nine geographic portions citywide, business community, etc. and make sure that we have statistically valid input from all segments. He does not think the number can be defined tonight.*

*Ms. Kowalczyk reported being challenged because members have a huge packet of recommendations that somebody has already put together regarding a purpose of the committee and suggestions for an appointment process and now, we are considering another one. She would like to go back to what was in some of the documents that Dr. Marlowe proposed. She thinks a mission statement does not include measurable outcomes and goals, that is a separate piece. She thinks we are struggling with that because it really does not fit in a mission statement. She is looking at packet page 109 which has a purpose of the committee statement, which is the second paragraph that states:*

**The committee has a dual purpose. Its administrative purpose is to manage the process and communicate status to the Council and community. Its product purpose is to discern and articulate the needs, values, and aspirations of the community with respect to the future of Worthington.**

*Ms. Kowalczyk shared that she does not have a problem with that statement. She thinks members could articulate certain outcomes of the committee that are separate from the purpose of the committee. When we were talking about job description, there were some things identified in Dr. Marlowe's recommendations. On packet page 110 it says:*

**To the extent possible, the Council should include the following considerations in appointments:**

- **Geographic coverage of the city;**
- **Age, gender, ethnicity range representation;**
- **Residents who are active in various community groups;**
- **Inclusion of persons who work in the community;**
- **The various constituency groups of the community are represented;**
- **Inclusion of persons or perspectives that are infrequently heard;**

*Ms. Kowalczyk stated that on packet page 111, there are the following attributes of ideal committee members listed:*

- **Ability to listen and balance various perspectives;**
- **Ability to critically evaluate assumptions;**
- **Ability to read and absorb survey and other data points;**
- **A willingness to openly state their interests while respecting the interests of others whether similar or different**
- **A willingness to seek solutions that represent the long-term best interests of the City.**

*Ms. Kowalczyk emphasized that she thinks all those points make sense. We do not need to reinvent the wheel with other qualifications. If we are appointing people, these are the kind of things she thinks she would be looking for as opposed to whether they intend to be a resident for the next ten years or other types of things that we are talking about. She thinks Councilmembers should go back to what was provided and see if we like what is being presented. We really have not talked about it.*

*President Michael commented that members do have the materials that Dr. Marlowe provided as someone who has worked in this area. She asked for the comments of Council.*

*Mr. Smith shared that he would not be hurt if members want to dispose of his comments but the reason he did this was because he looked at what could be Dr. Marlowe's job description as a potential applicant. He looked at it as an applicant and he had no clue as to what they are asking for here, he does not know what is going on.*

*President Michael asked if Council should start with a mission's statement? She went back to the following comments from Dr. Marlowe:*

**The committee has a dual purpose. Its administrative purpose is to manage the process and communicate status to the Council and community. Its product purpose is to discern and articulate the needs, values, and aspirations of the community with respect to the future of Worthington.**

*President Michael thinks it would make sense to have another sentence in there that touches on having a final product that will bring a confidence level of the final result to the community.*

*Mr. Foust commented on the earlier conversation about residency or not, he does not want to lose sight of the fact and where we got in trouble in the conversations from 3 ½ - 4 years ago, was the reference to the comprehensive plan and the surveys that came out of that. He can recall having people ask him, why are we out surveying twenty somethings that do not live in the community yet. Granted, they are important and could come here someday but he does not want to water down the significance of our responsibility and accountability to the residents. If you want to see somebody get fired up, get this thing wrong with the residents because that is where the trust got broken. He not advocating for any specific timeframe or a determination of residency, but you must have that resident-like tie to this community.*

*President Michael stated she thinks regarding the qualifications for the committee we are talking with the resident, but for the purpose, understanding we can revise it, she asked if we want to look at some revision of the Herb Marlowe purpose with some sentence that brings the community level confidence?*

*Ms. Dorothy shared that she is okay with the "Committee has a Dual Purpose" paragraph that Dr. Marlowe wrote.*

*Mr. Greeson agreed that there is a great deal of paperwork. If he could be helpful, there is additional information starting on page 113 with Purposes and other information regarding the visioning.*

*President Michael thinks members are talking about the second paragraph on page 109 and then moving down into some of the other areas.*

*Ms. Dorothy thinks point number 5 in the purposes of the Charter section on page 113:*

**Develop and conduct a community survey to validate a community-wide perspective on these needs, aspirations and values;**

*It says to validate although it does not go into the various specifics on how to accomplish that.*

*Ms. Kowalczyk thinks what the section on page 113 is the Charter for the committee so that is what they are charged to do. That would include the survey, adopting processes to hear from the community, and to develop a statement.*

*Mr. Robinson asked if members are attempting to articulate the mission. President Michael acknowledged that is the starting point. Mr. Robinson asked if one of the basis Councilmembers are looking at is Dr. Marlowe statement on page 109, the simple statement describing the administrative and product purpose. He expressed that it seems uncontroversial and straight forward.*

*President Michael asked if there is agreement that the “Dual Purpose” statement on page 109 is a good beginning point for our mission? Members agreed.*

*Mr. Robinson reported that while he does not have a problem with “...manage the process and...”, he wants more than “communication of status to council”. He likes the idea of the committee being in close consultation with Council.*

*President Michael expressed that she is not sure what “Close Consultation” means. One of her fears is that we have been accused for lack of transparency. If this is supposed to be a community-run opportunity, to have that much close consultation with Council, makes her feel like we are losing the transparency that we have been saying we want to have.*

*Mr. Myers explained that “close consultation” means, that they report back to Council at regular intervals on what they are doing. Ultimately, Council does have to oversee what they are doing, while not telling them what to do. We need to know what is going on. He has no problem with the close consultation language. He also likes some of Mr. Smith’s language, he likes “to inform, engage, and listen to community members” and would like to see that incorporated.*

*Mr. Robinson said that he believes the informing part is that it is going to be important to have an awareness educational component upfront to make sure we are getting as informed replies as possible through the process.*

*President Michael asked to have the language cleaned up and returned. These are the concepts we want to see and when they comeback we can tweak. We are just trying to come up with a draft.*

*Mr. Myers offered the following mission statement:*

**Its product purpose is to discern and articulate the needs, values, and aspirations of the community by informing, engaging, and listening to community members to thereby articulate the aspirations of the community with respect to the future of Worthington.**

*President Michael explained that this becomes a draft that will be given back with grammatical cleanup so that Council has a chance to work from it. It is pretty difficult to wordsmith and draft on the fly. At least we are saying this is the concepts we would like to see. When it comes back, we can see if it needs some more tweaks, but at least we are moving something forward.*

*Mr. Myers asked if we have a draft mission statement and we will look at it at the next meeting. President Michael said that is correct. Mr. Greeson noted that staff has captured Mr. Myers' remarks.*

*President Michael asked if Council wants to move into the composition of committee.*

*Mr. Greeson identified thinking about the purpose is also important. Does Council want to use the resolution that was adopted earlier in total or does Council want to provide any additional context. It could stand alone. Council provided broader themes from the earlier interview's broader themes. He is not suggesting one outcome or another, rather he wants to know what should be used as the purpose statement for the committee? Mr. Robinson asked if this was for the RFP. Mr. Greeson clarified for the committee. He asked if Council wants a broader statement.*

*Mr. Myers commented that the resolution should work. He suggested we take Mr. Smith's work, Dr. Marlowe's work, and the resolution and put the three together for next time. Then we have the mission and a resolution out of the way, and we can get the actual job description at the next meeting.*

*Mr. Foust asked if we are talking about the Marlowe document, which sections specifically are being discussed. President Michael said it would be the mission statement from packet page 109, then the criteria on page 111 and 113. Mr. Foust clarified that the goal for next meeting is to come back with thoughts on pages 111, 113. Mr. Myers said to take those pages and combine it with the resolution and what Mr. Smith has proposed.*

*Ms. Kowalczyk suggested since there is already a document to work from, that we do not do something wholly separate.*

*Doug Smith volunteered to as the drafter, do some scribe work with the Councilmembers thoughts.*

*President Michael requested that Councilmembers get their thoughts to Mr. Smith at least one week before the next Council meeting. She summarized that Council has gotten a resolution passed, a draft mission statement to work from, and an assignment on the committee's responsibilities and qualifications. Staff will also be checking out how we can move forward with the consultants.*

### Information Item(s)

*Mr. Greeson explained that included in the Weekly Information Items, was an email from Lee Brown. There was a robust meeting on National Church Residences at the Municipal Planning Commission/Architectural Review Board. It is possible they will be back on the agenda February 28<sup>th</sup> just to finish hearing additional testimony. Staff is going ahead and meeting with them on the technical portion of their application because like many bigger projects they are not complete when they first come in. There is a list of the types of things we will be talking with them about such as traffic analysis, stormwater, more details on screening/landscaping, fencing, updated tree analysis, and things like that which will eventually round out an application. Some Councilmembers have asked for things, such as updated 3D drawing without trees to more clearly see the buildings without embellishment. Another idea was an age progression depicting trees over time. We have MPC members we will be talking to, to see what they expect to see regarding changes in elevations and different viewpoints that the drawings may be viewed from.*

*What he does not want to have happen is that MPC and Council feedback in an uncoordinated way where we ask the applicant to make changes to their submittal every day. He requests that you get Mr. Brown any questions or suggestions for materials that would be desirable to see as part of this process. We will compile those and ask for clarification if we need it. We will work with the applicant to set deadlines for submittal with deadlines tied to the application deadlines of the MPC/ARB, we do have a coordinated process. We would then get it all out to the public at once, tied to the agenda deadlines.*

*Ms. Kowalczyk asked if there was a deadline Council should be getting these things in by. Mr. Greeson responded not off top of his head, but he will get that to Councilmembers. He thinks there will be several but at least the initial ask will be coordinated.*

*Mr. Greeson shared a couple of thoughts with Councilmembers about how important public service is and how you are part of a larger family. He explained how he attended the funeral of Ted Staton who was the City Manager of Upper Arlington. He was struck by the impact that someone from local government could have. Last night, he also attended the calling hours for Dee Slaughter, the wife of John Slaughter. She was part of the Worthington community and part of the Worthington City family. Many city employees turned out on relatively short notice for that event. Lastly, he experienced another somber event that left him feeling heartened by the fact that we work in such a special profession. The Westerville Division of Police lost Officers Joering and Morelli last year. Their Division of Police invited representatives from the law enforcement agencies throughout Central Ohio to participate in a mutual aid awards presentation that was held at Westerville North High School. He detailed how he attended along with Chief Strait and Assistant City Manager Stewart to recognize several of our employees who volunteered during that tragedy. He passed around a challenge coin that was specially made by the City of Westerville to specially honor the people who volunteered for them in their time of need.*

## REPORT OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

*Mr. Robinson thanked Mr. Greeson for his words.*

*Mr. Smith discussed how he would like to discuss appropriations from Bicentennial Fund to support the Orange Johnson House's bicentennial project. He told that to Mr. Greeson via email and he recommended that he bring it up at tonight's Council meeting to see if Councilmembers want additional information.*

*President Michael said it would be good to have more information. Specifically, what it is and how much the ask would be for. Mr. Greeson said staff can work to help prepare that.*

*Mr. Myers shared the history and significance behind the challenge coin. It is a military honor when a commanding officer very discretely compliments a subordinate through the use of a challenge coin. No one else knows that the soldier is getting a challenge coin because it is hidden using a handshake. It is as high of an honor as an enlisted man would get. Mr. Greeson explained how the tradition in law enforcement is not dissimilar, though perhaps a little more public in recognition of people who perform special duties. However, it is an honor.*

*Mr. Myers reported on the MPC/ARB meeting, thanking Ms. Kowalczyk and Mr. Robinson for being there. The meeting ended between 11:30pm and 11:45pm. Stafford Village was tabled. The demolition and rebuild of 53 Short Street was tabled, there was considerable discussion about the size, height, trees in front, how much of a lot it was taking up. Most everything after that was fairly insignificant. Additions, new windows, screen all passed. We will be receiving a Planned Unit Development dealing with the Holiday Inn which passed. It was an amalgamation of things that the MPC had passed in bits and pieces over the course of the past three years which will be coming to Council.*

*Ms. Dorothy thanked everyone for going through the Bike and Ped presentation at the prior week's Council meeting. There is opportunity to submit any changes you would like to the Bike and Ped master plan. Any community member can go online and do a SurveyMonkey. If anyone else has comments they can email Mr. Hurley who will get it to the right person. When asked by Ms. Kowalczyk if that could be something put in the newsletter to residents or on Facebook, Mr. Greeson replied he would double check on that.*

*Ms. Kowalczyk report on the Old Worthington Partnership board meeting last week. It was announced that the long-time market manager, Jaime Moore, is leaving, but will be coming back to help us transition to a new market manager. There was a discussion about the possibility of doing something for her as she has done a tremendous amount of work and our Farmer's market is one of best in Central Ohio.*

*She explained how she shared information from the retreat. One item they were interested in was the murals issue. The board discussed potentially bringing something forward to Council in conjunction with the McConnell Arts Center on the public arts commission option. They are currently talking about how to move that forward.*

*The Partnership launched the Worthington Wednesday on the first Wednesday of every month. It has a topic, a service project, and other things to encourage people to attend things in Old Worthington and shop with the merchants there. On March 6<sup>th</sup> the theme is Worthington Reads and there will be storytime activities, a book donation program, and more. More information can be found at ExperienceWorthington.com.*

*Lastly, she thanked Councilmember Myers for his dedicated service on the MPC. She had attended the NCR public meeting the night before at the Griswold center. It was very interesting to see the engagement from the community and the interest in how we can preserve affordable housing for not only our older residents, but also how to facilitate that with NCR.*

*President Michael detailed how she has met with several members one on one and she appreciates their time and she has gained a lot. She also suggested when meeting with Ms. Kowalczyk, having a proclamation for Jaime to be presented at the market when she is there. It might be a good way to acknowledge her work.*

*She explained how in her discussion with Mr. Robinson it was mentioned that some members of the Old Worthington Association think people do not celebrate the historic district enough. They talked about ideas of having a Worthington Historic District Day which would be the day the historic district designation came. Could have at the Council meeting prior to that date, an opportunity to bring up Worthington Historic District Day and OWA could springboard off that with activities and education. She has talked with Greg Browning about it and he is going to take it to their board. It is an easy way to celebrate and it give an annual recognition for something that is really a very important part of this community. There really is not a reason why we should not celebrate it.*

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

President Michael declared the meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

/s/ D. Kay Thress  
Clerk of Council

APPROVED by the City Council, this  
4<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2019.

/s/ Bonnie D. Michael  
Council President