



CITY OF WORTHINGTON
Worthington City Council Minutes
July 15, 2019

6550 N. High Street
Worthington, Ohio 43085

CALL TO ORDER – Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance

Worthington City Council met in Regular Session on Monday, July 15, 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, Beth Kowalczyk, Douglas Foust, David Robinson, Douglas K. Smith, Scott Myers, 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, Chief of Fire John Bailot, Director of Service & Engineering Dan Whited, Director of Planning & Building Lee Brown, Chief of Police Jerry Strait, Director of Parks & Recreation Darren Hurley, Clerk of Council D. Kay Thress, Assistant City Clerk Ethan Barnhardt

There were 17 visitors present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

VISITOR COMMENTS

There were no visitor comments.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION(S)

Resolution No. 46-2019

Expressing the Appreciation and Best Wishes of the Worthington City Council to Chief Jerry Strait for his Outstanding Service to the Worthington Division of Police and for his Service to the Community.

Introduced by Mr. Myers.

MOTION

Mr. Smith made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 46-2019. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dorothy.

There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 46-2019 passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Mr. Greeson explained how it is his honor to make remarks about Chief Jerry Strait. He detailed how Chief Strait has spent 37 years in law enforcement, including 32 years with the City of Worthington. Throughout his service to the community, there are few jobs that he has not performed. At every level he has displayed exceptional performance. A former supervisor wrote in his personnel file that, "...this officer is a self-starter and needs very little supervision and exceeds the departmental standards in all areas..." His career has been characterized by hard work, staying until the job is done, and saying yes to the tasks that need to be done. He exudes humility and has always been focused on Worthington and putting citizens and other employees before himself.

All Chiefs have to make hard decisions and he listens to and hears all sides of an issue, showing fairness in his decision-making. He is a good administrative leader, an innovator, advancing technology implementation, and always advocates for furthering police standards and best practices in our organization. He treats everyone the same and always seeks out opportunities to mentor and coach others in our organization and throughout the community. He has been active in local organizations and has supported anti-drug efforts in the community. The commitment to serving others comes from his faith and family.

He comes from a family of servants. His father is a retired law enforcement officer. His brother and brother-in-law have been in law enforcement. His sister is a nurse. His wife is a highly experienced nurse. His daughter serves in social work. Being the family member of a public servant and law enforcement officer is not easy. We are deeply appreciative of his family over these years. He expressed his deep appreciation of Chief Strait and thanked him for his years of service.

President Michael expressed how much we will miss Chief Strait and how the men and women he has worked with will miss him.

President Michael read the text of Resolution 46-2019.

Chief Strait expressed how he has been blessed to be a police officer for the City of Worthington. He described how in his initial interview, he stated that he wanted the Chief's job. It has been an honor and privilege to be Chief of Police and serving with other public servants. Our officers and staff work every day to make sure this community gets the best of police services. His successes are not just his, they are by grace of God, family, mentors, friends, and the people who serve the community every day. His wife Leigh Ann has been his rock, confidant, and sounding board who has been with him through all of life's events. His children have been great supporters. He said that he could not ask for better people and community to guide and support.