



CITY OF WORTHINGTON
Worthington City Council Minutes
October 7, 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, October 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, Beth Kowalczyk, Scott Myers, David Robinson, Douglas K. Smith, and Bonnie D. Michael

Member(s) Absent: Douglas Foust

Also present: City Manager Matt Greeson, Assistant City Manager Robyn Stewart, Director of Finance Scott Barter, Chief of Fire John Bailot, Director of Service & Engineering Dan Whited, Director of Planning & Building Lee Brown, Director of Parks & Recreation Darren Hurley, Clerk of Council D. Kay Thress, Assistant City Clerk Ethan Barnhardt

There were 23 visitors present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

VISITOR COMMENTS

Project Community Park Worthington Co-Chairs - Kacey Brankamp, Andy Hutter, and Scott Taylor

Ms. Brankamp explained how they are the co-chairs of the group Project Community Park Worthington. They have passed out materials to Council that includes the vision of the group. She detailed how a year ago a group met, and questions arose about the status and future of the property. A consensus emerged, not only about outcomes for the property but also about the process for its redevelopment. Given the absence of public dialogue and all the questions surrounding the United Methodist Children's Home site, the group felt like

there should be a more meaningful dialogue about the site now. They have an alternative vision for this one-of-a-kind site. A common vision emerged including the preservation of a significant amount of green space with development around the edges. They determined they wanted to find out if others in the community shared that vision. They held gatherings at neighbor's homes and David Robinson, acting as a private citizen, lead discussion about the City, how UMCH will impact its future, and how the growing number of supporters for their vision could make a difference in shaping the outcome of this issue. It is crucial to point out that they are advocating for robust commercial along High Street and residential along the northern edge that is harmonious and compatible with surrounding neighborhoods. They are encouraging for a balanced approach to the development.

Mr. Hutter said it became clear that there was widespread support for their vision, so they decided to transform the verbal support into tangible evidence. They drafted a statement of support – a petition for neighbors to sign that they promoted over the summer. A website was created where residents could sign the petition online. They also had a table at the Farmers Market at the end of the summer. The purpose of the petition was to further a dialogue. They do not claim an irrefutable mandate. However, voices should be acknowledged, heard, and formally responded to. He described how the last couple pages of the packet are the first 1000 signatures of the petition, representing 750 individual Worthington households.

Mr. Taylor closed by saying that they understand this is a complex issue with many moving parts. They simply want to share with the City Council what accounts to a statement from the community supporting their mission coming from all quarters of the community. Each Councilmember has demonstrated in their own way the desire to listen, understand, and to serve the residents of this city. To that end, they believe that the materials passed out will help Council to continue to do that. He suggests that Councilmembers look at the materials and will conclude there are a set of recurring themes and messages in that information that constitutes the voice of the City.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- Committee of the Whole – September 9, 2019
- Regular Meeting – September 16, 2019

MOTION Ms. Kowalczyk moved, 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

Ordinance No. 38-2019 Amending Ordinance No. 52-2018 (As Amended) to Adjust the Annual Budget by Providing for an Appropriation from the Capital Improvements Fund Unappropriated Balance to Pay the Costs for

Acquisition and Installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations and all Related Expenses and Determining to Proceed with said Project. (Project No. 696-19)

The foregoing Ordinance Title was read.

Mr. Greeson presented how Council advanced at their retreat multiple sustainability initiatives, including electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. Council previously approved an application for EV station grant funding from American Electric Power (AEP).

Mr. McCorkle overviewed the project timeline and scope for the electric vehicle charging stations. He detailed the market analysis showing the number of electric vehicles in Worthington, Franklin County, and the United States, noting that the use of EV vehicles continues to rise.

He said that when we contracted with Clean Fuels Ohio for funding availability, it was discovered that there were no incentives for level two charging stations available. We applied for two DC fast chargers, one in Old Worthington and the other at the Community Center. The cost per station could not exceed \$100,000. The costs came in slightly higher in Old Worthington due to some upgrades that had to be done.

It is proposed that the City would contract with EV United for the acquisition and installation of both charging stations. The EV chargers are a pedestal design with two plugs that allow for two cars to charge simultaneously. He detailed the project budget breakdowns for both sites. All costs will be covered 100%. The only thing that is an ineligible cost would be signage, amounting to only a few hundred dollars.

Although both ChargePoint and Greenlots have numerous benefits, staff is recommending the use of the ChargePoint chargers. We understand that ChargePoint is an industry leader in this area, and they make the hardware as well. Greenlots is on the software end and contracts with manufacturers for the hardware. There are a lot of advantages now as both are partners for a peer to peer sharing system and users will be able to use apps to find other charging stations.

There are pros and cons for both companies. Both are pretty well done on the turnkey applications and both platforms would work for the City of Worthington. ChargePoint manufactures both the hardware and the software. The con is that the hardware costs themselves tend to be higher. Long term if we add more ChargePoint chargers, they are more expensive.

Greenlots is more customizable with different software opportunities and less expensive hardware. We have heard that there tends to be more ongoing maintenance issues that may not exist with ChargePoint. They are not quite as turnkey.

Ms. Dorothy said we have these two locations, but with our interface, someone with the City can track the usage of the stations. Mr. McCorkle said that from the software we can set pricing as the administrators of the programs. Ms. Dorothy asked if one was easier to look up information. Mr. McCorkle said that it is the impression that ChargePoint is the easier to use software system.

Mr. McCorkle showed a graphic detailing how ChargePoint has been adopted at a significantly higher rate in the Central Ohio area.

Mr. Robinson asked how long each have been in the market in Ohio. It is his impression ChargePoint has been in the market substantially longer, which is why there is a higher adoption rate.

Mr. McCorkle presented that something Council will need to weigh in on at a future date is whether we should be charging customers, or if the City will offer free charging as an amenity. He detailed different estimated electric costs considering usage for the chargers. Different communities approach this in different ways and this will need to be decided before the chargers are activated.

Mr. Robinson explained how he was drawn into this issue when he recently went to the Clean Fuels symposium two weeks ago. He views this as a pivotal point in time and his thinking is that we need to make the right choice. His concern about ChargePoint, if we select them is whether we are committing ourselves to the use of their hardware in perpetuity because we are not able to use other parties' software to manage their chargers in a network. If that is the case, he asks we reopen our consideration and look at Greenlots.

Mr. Oliver said there are multiple matters to consider including whether ChargePoint hardware be managed by other software. Before we go to contract, staff can get answers in writing.

Mr. Myers asked if the reverse was also not true, if we are committed to either and if it matters. Mr. Robinson said it does matter. His conversation with Greenlots leads him to believe their software is able to manage hardware from multiple vendors and their software is adept at handling multiple types of charging stations in a network. It seems if we go with ChargePoint, we are locked into using them in the future. He wants to pause for a week or two to achieve answers to these questions because he has not been able to get a clear answer so far.

Mr. Oliver stated that both vendors attest they operate on a standard protocol for operating on ChargePoint stations. The most current version was adopted in 2018. Both attest they can interoperate. The only question in his mind is getting confirmation as to what version ChargePoint really operates and getting it in writing from both of them.

Mr. Robinson expressed that he had quite different conversations and he could not get an answer from ChargePoint.

Ms. Michael said it is her understanding that we put together an application under the assumption we use ChargePoint. If we go with Greenlots, she asked if we would need to reapply. Mr. McCorkle said it was considered prudent to reapply and there would be a three to four week turnaround.

Mr. Conley from Clean Fuels Ohio reported that both ChargePoint and Greenlots are part of the network. Greenlots manufactures the software for subset of providers they partner with. There are other charger units that do not work with open ChargePoint protocol. ChargePoint does not want to let it be known their hardware can be used by other applications. They should be interoperable with Greenlots' network. Both of them only work with the proprietary hardware they have partnerships with.

Ms. Dorothy said we are talking about the first two municipal owned chargers. We can look at how often they are used. The question is if we can operate a network with different bills which is not an unusual situation. She expressed it would be nice to be under one umbrella. Mr. Conley said that interoperability under the software protocol is an important point. This is an increasing market need going forward and understanding this Open Charge Point Protocol (OCPP) is an important foundational aspect.

Mr. Myers said it would seem that eventually the industry would standardize. Mr. Conley confirmed that they are seeing the standardization of this protocol, the basic operating systems are interoperable. Mr. Myers said just because we go with ChargePoint today, that does not mean we cannot go with Greenlots in the future.

Ms. Kowalczyk said we want hardware that is plug and play with our software. Mr. Oliver expressed that it is the Open Charge Point Protocol that is important. They have attested that they conform to that standard.

When asked by Ms. Dorothy how long the chargers would last, barring anything catastrophic, Mr. Conley replied that both vendors estimate a ten-year useful life for their DC fast charger equipment.

Mr. Smith asked what the install timeline would be or if we would lose any funding if we pushed this back a week. Mr. McCorkle said it would be a 30 day delivery. We are in no danger of losing funding. Mr. Smith said he sees no reason to go in a different direction, has used ChargePoint previously.

Mr. Greeson presented options for Council to decide upon. Council could decide to move forward tonight or could decide to table and request specific information. The final option would be to re-evaluate the recommendations and give full consideration to Greenlots and do re-comparison of both of them.

Mr. Myers asked if we were to change vendors if we would need to introduce a new ordinance or amend the current ordinance. Mr. Greeson stated you could amend the ordinance, but you would want to do that with the proper consideration of both vendors.

Mr. Myers explained that just because we buy ChargePoint today that does not mean we cannot buy Greenlots down the road. He commented that we have Chevys and Fords in our fleet, and we change our own oil, the oil filters are in different places, but we still manage to get the oil changed. Just because we buy ChargePoint today, does not mean we cannot buy Greenlots down the road. He does not know if there is anything here that has persuaded him not to move forward today.

Mr. Robinson said the difference is that as a municipality we want a single management platform to manage multiple charging devices. It would be cumbersome and inefficient to handle a network with multiple software platforms.

Mr. Smith said he would agree with Mr. Robinson.

MOTION

Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Robinson to table Ordinance No. 38-2019.

Mr. Robinson explained how he would ask both companies to provide whether their hardware can be managed as part of a multiple vendor network. Mr. Oliver asked about if both vendors could answer in the affirmative they can manage non-specific hardware. Mr. Robinson said if Mr. Oliver were satisfied with their answers as credible, he would be satisfied.

Ms. Kowalczyk goes to back to the original question if we are confident ChargePoint software could be used on other equipment, if we bought other equipment we could use the ChargePoint software to manage that other equipment. If we went with ChargePoint right now we would not necessarily have a problem. The question Mr. Robinson is raising is about if we had other software and needed it to manage ChargePoint hardware. Mr. Smith said that ChargePoint states directly that they can manage any hardware that operates on the OCPP. Their software can manage any hardware that operates on that standard. What was not able to be definitely answered to Mr. Robinson's satisfaction was can the ChargePoint hardware then be managed by other third party software.

Mr. Robinson questioned that at the end of four years, if wanted to purchase other charging station hardware, would we be bound to buying ChargePoint hardware if we were using the ChargePoint software. Mr. Myers said that we heard just now that we would not be. Mr. Robinson said that if we wanted to use an alternative software platform, he wants to know if we would be constrained to stay with ChargePoint because we have ChargePoint hardware. He said the answer appears to him to be yes we would be bound. Ms. Kowalczyk said that we do not have anything now and we are projecting a position where we may change our mind sometime in the future. We need to make a selection that works for us now.

Mr. Myers asked if Mr. Robinson is asking for a universal software and hardware that works with anything. Mr. Robinson said it appears that with ChargePoint we would have to use their hardware and software.

Mr. Smith shared an anecdote about his professional life and the selection of project management software interoperability and then inquired if the software and hardware is compatible with OCPP and will it be able to integrate with other third party platforms that come into the marketplace at some point. Mr. Oliver said it is a definitive yes. Mr. Conley said the point of the OCPP is for integration. ChargePoint's business model is to sell you hardware and software and to renew that management software as long as you are a customer. Greenlots business model is to sell you the software and partner with hardware providers. Both want to sell you the software at the end of that day.

Mr. Smith rescinded his motion to table Ordinance No. 38-2019.

Ms. Dorothy described how she has talked with residents in the community who are excited about seeing this happen. She expressed that she would like to move forward and vote on this.

There being no additional comments, the clerk called the roll on Ordinance No. 38-2019. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes 6 Robinson, Kowalczyk, Dorothy, Smith, Myers, and Michael

No 0

Ordinance No. 38-2019 was thereupon declared duly passed and is recorded in full in the appropriate record book.

Ordinance No. 39-2019

Granting an Easement to Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. through a Portion of Property Owned by the City of Worthington at 7200 Huntley Road to Accommodate the Relocation of Utilities as part of the Northeast Gateway Project.

The foregoing Ordinance Title was read.

Mr. Whited explained how this is for the Northeast Gateway. Columbia Gas intends to put a gas line in through the property and is looking for an easement.

There being no comments, the clerk called the roll on Ordinance No. 39-2019. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes 6 Kowalczyk, Dorothy, Smith, Myers, Robinson, and Michael

No 0

Ordinance No. 39-2019 was thereupon declared duly passed and is recorded in full in the appropriate record book.

NEW LEGISLATION TO BE INTRODUCED

Resolution No. 55-2019

Authorizing an Amendment to the Final Development Plan for 6999 Huntley Road and Authorizing a Variance (Granite Direct/Huntley Corporate Center, LLC).

Introduced by Ms. Kowalczyk

Mr. Brown detailed how this is in the Northeast Gateway area. The parcel has been reviewed by Municipal Planning Commission. The request is to have an additional 4x8 sign on the western portion of the building facing Worthington-Galena.

MOTION Ms. Dorothy made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 55-2019. The motion was seconded by Mr. Myers.

There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 55-2019 passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Resolution No. 56-2019

Authorizing an Amendment to the Final Development Plan for 7099 Huntley Road and Authorizing Variances (The Geldhill Family Limited Partnership /Donald T. Plank, Esq.).

Introduced by Mr. Smith.

Mr. Brown said with this property there is a small sliver being purchased for the Northeast Gateway. In 1986 the Municipal Planning Commission and City Council granted a variance for the setback to be reduced from 30 feet to 10 feet. The applicant is also asking for a variance for the southern portion of the building. Staff did not see any issues. This went before the Municipal Planning Commission and was recommended for approval.

MOTION Mr. Robinson made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 56-2019. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kowalczyk.

There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 56-2019 passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Resolution No. 57-2019

Accepting the Recommendations of the 2019 Worthington Tax Incentive Review Council Concerning Parcels of Commercial Real Property in the City of Worthington Receiving Tax Exemptions for Purposes of Economic Development.

Introduced by Ms. Dorothy.

Mr. McCorkle detailed the history and composition of the Tax Incentive Review Council (TIRC). He explained the background of the Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) program and how a CRA is administered. Worthington has one CRA area, located along three commercial and industrial corridors of the City. Only commercial and industrial properties may be abated under the CRA. He described the functions of Tax Increment Financing (TIF).

He presented the background of the different tax incentive projects in the city. The TIRC recommended adjusting the Worthington Station CRA to reflect BCR Worthington LLC as the lone beneficiary and modify the new job and payroll commitments to match the 2018 numbers. He explained how Roadrunner moved out in 2018. They met 93% of the payroll. The TIRC could have gone after them for punitive action but recommended letting the project finish out without any action. The TIRC recommended continuing the FC Bank CRA as is.

The TIRC found all the TIFs in compliance. Five out of seven of the TIFs are currently generating revenue.

Ms. Dorothy clarified how we do not do many CRAs in Worthington. Mr. McCorkle said there is an anti-poaching philosophy in Central Ohio. We are competing with neighboring communities that are aggressive in putting Class-A office space with abatements backed in. We have approved four CRAs in the past 12 years.

Ms. Kowalczyk asked about when we consider these, we also pay attention to the impact to the schools and the revenue they would otherwise lose. Mr. McCorkle said that many of ours are non-school TIFs.

MOTION Mr. Myers made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 57-2019. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith.

There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 57-2019 passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Resolution No. 58-2019 Authorizing the Award of Façade Assistance and Corridor Enhancement Funds to Help Improve Facility Exterior Facade and Streetscape Along Certain of the City’s Commercial Corridors (6580 Huntley Road).

Introduced by Mr. Robinson.

Mr. McCorkle explained that the applicant for this is SuperGames. They have recently acquired the former Tropical Nut & Fruit Building. We are recommending the maximum award amount of \$25,000. They are putting in a new parking lot to the north of the building, repainting the brick, stone and window frames. There will be new signage, new fencing, and new exterior garage doors.

The Community Improvement Corporation met and recommended approval of this application. There is a strong economic impact with a longtime business purchasing a building and investing in the community.

When asked by Ms. Dorothy when this would move forward, Mr. McCorkle replied that the building owner indicated the work would begin as soon as October and be completed by March 2020.

MOTION Ms. Kowalczyk made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 58-2019. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dorothy.

There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 58-2019 passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Ordinance No. 33-2019 Approving the Installation of a Tree Dedication Marker on the Southeast Village Green to Recognize the Contributions of former City Council Member Lou Briggs to the Worthington Community.

Introduced by Mr. Myers.

The Clerk was instructed to give notice of a public hearing on said ordinance(s) in accordance with the provisions of the City Charter unless otherwise directed.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS

Policy Item(s)

- Liquor Permit Transfer - From Roadhouse 66 LLC to Nolah J Enterprises LLC

Mr. Greeson said staff asked the Division of Police to ascertain if there was any objection to this liquor permit transfer. The recommendation is to not request a hearing

MOTION Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Robinson to not request a hearing.

The motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

- Worthington Age Friendly Initiative

Mr. Greeson explained how we have been blessed to have an intern, Christa Johnston, working with a team to prepare information about what an age friendly initiative would look like.

Mr. Hurley thanked the committee who worked hard on this including Councilmembers Kowalczyk and Dorothy, Nick Linkenhoker with the Community Relations Commission, and Colleen Light.

Ms. Johnston said that this evening's remarks will provide information on Worthington's engagement in the burgeoning social priority known as "Age Friendliness." By the end of the presentation, Council will understand how shifting population trends and social dynamics are shaping future planning needs and potential opportunities age friendliness might provide to the Worthington community.

She explained how the population worldwide and nationwide are aging. In the US, people 65 or older will nearly double to 95 million by 2060. Ohio is not immune to these aging trends. By 2050, 30% of Ohio's population will be 60 or older. In 2017 more than 20% of Worthington's 14,000 residents were over 65.

People are living longer and healthier lives in adulthood. The new lifestyle approach encompasses aging in place which is the ability for an individual to live in their residence of choice with the resources available for active aging needs as long as safely and financially possible. It is important to clarify that aging in place does not equate to having in-home hospice care or living a life of isolation in one's later years; it's not a concept of extremes. It is planning and preparing for challenges of everyday life that impact physical, mental, and emotional wellness.

As a city that prides itself on small time charm and tradition, Worthington's approach is important. In 2019, Worthington City Council established "making Worthington Age Friendly" as a priority interest heading into 2020. This meant understanding the processes of age-friendly planning in order to develop an approach that implements best practices and meets the needs of city residents. A group of city leaders, community stakeholders, and professionals who work particularly with Worthington's older population convened to craft messaging on the purpose of Worthington's age-friendly priority interest. This resulted in the Worthington Age-Friendly Initiative, or AFI, mission statement and founding principles.

Worthington currently has a variety of civic, informational, and social interests that benefit the community at large, while paying special attention to the needs of its older residents. These diverse programs compliment society's eight livability domains, which are features that positively impact social well-being, particularly for older adults. These domains include: Outdoor Space and Buildings, Transportation, Social Participation, Civic Participation and Employment, Housing, Respect and Social Inclusion, Community and Health Services, and Communication and Information. A base level internal assessment was conducted around these domains to identify and organize city and partnership activities that influence Worthington's community lifestyle, engagement, and planning needs.

The resulting AFI Activities Snapshot in Council's packet creates a starting point for city leaders, stakeholders, and partners to understand what Worthington is currently doing,

and to not reinvent the wheel in preparation for and adaptation to projected aging trends. While not exhaustive, you can see Worthington already does many things that reflect age-friendliness. The Worthington Division of Fire and EMS provide emergency response services for a variety of manmade and natural emergencies, safety inspections, hazard mitigation, and public education. Through seemingly small contributions – like installing smoke detectors throughout the community – the department supports big results in community health/wellness/and safety, information sharing, and supports aging in place. The City’s Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan is complimented by Worthington’s Wayfinding Plan and Complete Streets Policy, and will increase access, safety, and use of city-wide mobility infrastructure for all ages and abilities. Leadership Worthington’s Service Day uses a City Council Community Grant to support an annual day of helping older or disabled residents take care of errands and chores around their homes. This links to housing, health services, social participation, and respect and inclusion.

After recognizing the city’s many key functions, we turned our gaze outward and spoke to neighboring communities who are further along in implementing age-friendly services. We did this to gain constructive guidance and lessons learned about their unique, proactive approaches toward long-term AFI commitments. Village Connections is a local non-profit serving the 55 and over population to create a greater Columbus community of connected, active, and independent older adults who are able to age in place. Village Connections is not social work; it’s comprised of dedicated volunteers who provide general life care service and assistance to its members during the work week. Overall, our takeaways from Village Connections leadership was to understand the community’s needs, then wants, in order to build a successful social contract; and find diverse and multi-generational partners within the community to champion AFI who understand all aspects of grassroots advocacy.

The City of Dublin launched its “Aging in Place” plan in 2018 to address the city’s future planning and service needs for all residents, approached through an aging lens. There are three overarching themes, based on community input and engagement including Navigation Services, Health, Wellness, and Social Services, and Community Connections and Engagement. These are closely tied to city services and operations already underway, including planning & building, housing & transportation, Parks & Rec, and emergency services like Police and Fire.

Given these connections and community feedback, Dublin chose to NOT become an AARP Age Friendly Network member and instead operates community-based outreach programs and services in collaboration with diverse partnerships. To improve and increase transportation user friendliness, Dublin partnered with SHARE for a “Senior Circulator” that transports older residents to amenity services around the city. They have also partnered with Syntero for the “Forever Dublin” program specializes in community outreach and active engagement for its 55 and up population for all city services. To address future housing trends and challenges, Dublin’s partnered with MORPC to conduct a Central Ohio Housing Strategy to understand the area’s future needs to foster a long-term market that improves the lives of everyone in the community.

Strategy results are intended to provide investment and policy recommendations with respect to new or restructured building and zoning regulations, streamlining clearance processes, or reviewing the necessity and effectiveness of current city rules and requirements. The takeaways from Dublin’s director were to listen to your community early and often to make sure AFI interests are meeting people’s needs and to diversify funding resources and partners to increase program effectiveness versus having one “age-friendly” pot of money or goal.

One city that has committed to the AARP Age-Friendly States and Communities Network is Westerville. As its older age population trends are surpassing national ones, city leadership recognized it needed to understand how changing demographics would impact city services and infrastructure, and soon. So in 2018, “Age Friendly Westerville” was formalized to integrate healthy, independent, and multi-generational age components into future service planning. Westerville is currently in the process of hosting “Public Workshops & a Livable Communities Survey” with residents, which began in May and will run until March of next year. Feedback centered primarily around Housing and Transportation challenges. In fact, Westerville City Council will be presented with three proposals for a city circulator this Fall: one in coordination with COTA; another with private companies like Uber, Lyft, and SHARE; as well as a city-run option.

Takeaways from Westerville’s Planning & Development team included convening AFI’s leadership with multi-generational residents, public and private business leaders, city staff, and other community advocates, and convene them now. This will help both near- and long-term planning and the “ownership” of the initiative, as they recommend it to be a community led, versus city led, initiative. Organizing this group now will also help manage the workload in terms of approach and expectations.

There are clear similarities in all these stories. All are engaging with residents to develop long-term solutions on community priorities like housing, transportation, and social inclusion. While each community’s end-goal is to improve quality of life for its residents, how they commit to achieving success is not through a cookie cutter approach. Worthington was wise to listen to its neighbors about considerations and lessons learned. And it will be wiser, still, in recognizing that creating a Worthington AFI will be its own unique process with every citizen having their own unique wants and needs.

The one goal tonight was to introduce and get Worthington leadership on the same page as to what AFI is. It is the commitment of inclusive and empowering services that respect, validate, and support every citizen to actively age where they call home. The Worthington AFI Mission Statement is a sandbox; it’s founding principles are the bucket, shovel, and molds. Whatever sand sculpture Worthington chooses to build – be it as a member of the AARP Network; an independent community-driven program; by partnerships that reflect age-friendliness through existing resources; or something else entirely and not yet realized through community input – is up to Worthington. Tonight was not to give any particular recommendation on what to build in the sandbox, quite simply because the community

feedback data that can be translated into actionable information for strategic planning hasn't been conducted and compiled yet. But we're starting to act.

However the city proceeds with AFI: the input of capital like staff, time, dollars, and research – and how to disperse these resources in coordination with other city priorities– will require Council's thoughtful consideration. This means guaranteeing an adequate amount of resources are available for strategic planning; utilizing relationships with existing and new partners for performance development; the nature of these partnerships with respect to AFI's long-term leadership and community accountability; and the timing of AFI's development all in tandem with other resources and city initiatives already in play. This includes alignment of operations alongside Worthington's new Visioning Process, as well as requirements with respect to the city's proposed 2020 operating budget.

Once staff knows Council's preferred design and path forward, we can more accurately assess what will be required of city resources for AFI planning, as well as how to be both measured and innovative to meet our goals. The one recommendation she gives, regardless of future format and timing, is to find your local AFI champions now to keep this momentum going. Worthington has great services that reflect age-friendliness. But who are the change agents who will take the proactive steps and connect the strategic dots to KEEP doing great things and stay ahead of all those stats we talked about? By having champions involved now, Worthington AFI will hit the ground running once the city is ready to move forward on this commitment.

Ms. Kowalczyk thanked Ms. Johnston and committee for all of their work. This is an issue of inclusivity and empowerment. This is food for thought on the idea of formally joining the age friendly network through AARP. The network of what they call "Age Friendly Communities" implement those policies to make communities livable. Formally joining the network would give us access to over 400 communities who have joined and the opportunity to share our resources with each other and learn from fellow members. AARP also has the potential to give seed money. The visioning process will help us gather more information on how we want to move forward.

Ms. Dorothy expressed her thanks to everyone for their hard work. She knows she has heard residents express their love for Worthington. She wants to move forward with this, and she is excited about the inclusivity of getting people of all ages, abilities, and incomes together and having them interact and mix in the community. Worthington is inclusive. Knowing that Worthington has the greatest percentage seniors in Central Ohio is powerful.

Ms. Kowalczyk discussed the process to formally join the age friendly network. It is a five year process and starts with an assessment of the community with a group of community leaders to determine where there are gaps. Then we establish a strategic plan based on that information. There are not a lot of real stringent requirements. It is an important statement to join the network. We would need to declare our commitment to doing this process through a resolution. She thinks the visioning process can be a part of the assessment process.

President Michael asked if we need a committee or commission overseeing this. Ms. Kowalczyk said that the City could take the lead. There could also be an advisory committee created. It depends on which way we want to go. City staff has plenty of priorities already and there is concern about staffing another committee. She suggested a community advisory group.

Mr. Robinson asked about the general focus of AFI and whether it is really focused on seniors or persons of all ages. Ms. Kowalczyk said the concept is livable communities for all ages while looking at barriers that impede older adults from participating. The focus starts with looking at it from the perspective of older people. Mr. Robinson commented that a number of millennials and school age children are going up concurrent with older adults. We should keep in mind that we have many young people in the community.

Mr. Myers said that he is personally in the midst of pre-retirement planning. He is looking for exactly the same things a new parent is looking for. From his perspective these two concepts are not mutually exclusive. Ms. Johnston used the example of sidewalk ramps and how they serve the dual purposes of a wheelchair or a baby stroller.

Mr. Smith asked about other cities and their scope and specifically who they prioritize for circulator service. Ms. Johnston said that Dublin focused on ages 55 and up and they are looking at expanding two more additional routes. They are also looking at creating a general Dublin circulator for persons such as high schoolers or millennials with no cars. Mr. Smith asked if it was a route. Ms. Johnston said yes. President Michael asked how they were funding the circulator. Ms. Johnston said that Dublin is funding it themselves. President Michael asked about Westerville public circulator. Ms. Johnston said different options would be presented this fall for their program.

President Michael asked if Council wants to move forward with a resolution. She questioned how far or how fast Council wants to proceed.

Mr. Robinson asked for a proposal of what a resolution would be referring to.

Ms. Kowalczyk offered if anyone wants to sit and talk about this further to talk with her or Ms. Johnston.

Mr. Greeson said that this would be discussed further sometime near the end of the year.

Mr. Greeson reported that staff has distributed the operating and CIP budgets. The Worthington City Charter has a requirement that the City Manager has to submit to Council an operating budget and explanatory message at least sixty days prior to the beginning of each budget year. He gave thanks to Mr. Bartter and Ms. Stewart for their help on this.

He reported that 161 is open going to the west. In the spring it will be closed again to complete work on the other side of the road.

The Visioning Committee is meeting tomorrow, and they will be finalizing the scope and choosing their chair and vice chair.

There will be a joint meeting with the school board next week at the Worthington Education Center. The agenda has been posted online and the full packet will come out Thursday as is customary.

He explained that he is saddened to report that former councilmember Don Brennan passed away at the age of 86.

REPORT OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Robinson said he would like to schedule a discussion for the creation of a residential PACE program. Ohio is the fourth state to have passed a statewide ordinance. This could be discussed and executed fairly expeditiously. Ms. Dorothy suggested waiting for the retreat to discuss this. Currently we have a lot of different priorities. Mr. Robinson said he was under the impression that this was something widely shared by Council. Mr. Myers said he has no problem hearing a presentation, but it should wait until after budget. He is more skeptical because we have done it once and met resistance. Mr. Greeson said there are subject matter experts in the region who would be willing to do a presentation. President Michael said at a recent COMMA meeting, the Mayor of Bexley Ben Kessler reported it being a no brainer that went through quickly. We have different concerns however with our historic district. Mr. Greeson said we can provide some cursory level information. President Michael asked if it could be discussed after the budget before the year end. Mr. Robinson commented that the program is commencing Jan 1, 2020. He worries that Columbus will pass legislation on an emergency basis to kick off the program in 2020. This is something widely appealing to our public and he would like to have a discussion soon. Mr. Smith said if staff can find the appropriate people, he would like to hear something soon.

Mr. Smith asked Mr. Hurley about next week's meeting with the school board. He wants an overview about safe routes to schools. Mr. Hurley said they plan to overview as a comprehensive program, outlining several different options.

Ms. Kowalczyk pointed out that the Craft Crawl is this week and it is sold out. The Old Worthington Partnership is reaching the broader community on these events. It is in its second year and it appears to be quite the favorite.

President Michael thanked the Division of Police and Division of Fire and EMS for their open house this past weekend. Currently, the eminent domain legislation is moving slow. It was found in the Ohio Revised Code there is a statement that if a landowner is threatened with eminent domain and feels it is incorrect they can appeal to the city government and that body would serve to review if eminent domain should go forward. That has slowed the legislation down. She explained that the lawsuit regarding central collection of income taxes is going to be heard by the Ohio Supreme Court. She will give more details at a later time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION Ms. Kowalczyk moved, Ms. Dorothy seconded a motion to meet in Executive Session to discuss appointment and compensation of public officials and economic development

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

Yes 6 Dorothy, Myers, Kowalczyk, Robinson, Smith, and Michael

No 0

Council recessed at 9:58 p.m. from the Regular meeting session

MOTION Mr. Myers moved, Mr. Robinson seconded a motion to return to open session at 10:20 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

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

President Michael declared the meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Assistant City Clerk

*APPROVED by the City Council, this
21st day of October, 2019.*

Council President