



**CITY OF WORTHINGTON**  
**Worthington City Council Minutes**  
October 21, 2019

6550 N. High Street  
Worthington, Ohio 43085

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

Worthington City Council met in Regular Session on Monday, October 21, 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, Director of Parks & Recreation Darren Hurley, Clerk of Council D. Kay Thress, Assistant City Clerk Ethan Barnhardt

There were approximately 10 visitors present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**VISITOR COMMENTS**

Abramo Ottolenghi – 442 Crandall Drive, Worthington, Ohio

Mr. Ottolenghi said that statistically speaking he will not be around to enjoy or pay for some of the things he will talk about tonight. He listened to the joint meeting with the school board the week before. When he saw the letter from the attorneys describing possible options, he was pleased to see the mention of a joint recreation district. He described the creation of the districts in the 1980s when he noticed most of the recreation programs for the City were on school district land. The logical thing was to have a recreation district, however Council at that time decided not to go through that bureaucracy.

He urged Council to seriously consider the creation of a joint recreation district. For a bond issue, it would be a fraction of a mill. There are bonds for the schools and the City that will be retiring soon. If you consider doing a recreation district, consider the issue of a bond. He has seen that there are multiple recreation districts through the state so there is precedent there.

## **SPECIAL PRESENTATION(S)**

- Franklin County Children Services

### Doris Moore – Franklin County Children Services

Ms. Moore explained how she wanted to discuss Issue Ten, which is the Franklin County Children Services levy. She detailed how there are ten good reasons to vote for this levy:

- 1) It will not increase taxes.
- 2) Franklin County Children Services serves over 30,000 children who are abused and neglected each year.
- 3) They have worked hard to increase the cultural diversity of their staff.
- 4) The agency pours \$71 million into 100 partner agencies through the county and beyond to support children and families.
- 5) The agency is committed to exercising best practices for children and families
- 6) Outcomes for children are constantly improving.
- 7) The agency has a no eject, no reject policy. If this levy does not pass they cannot say they will not serve abused or neglected children, however case workers would be stretched increasingly thin.
- 8) Franklin County Children Services has been a good steward of public dollars.
- 9) 67% of their funding comes from two property tax levies spread 5 years apart. Without passage, services to children will be jeopardized.
- 10) You will protect children without raising homeowner's property taxes.

*Ms. Kowalczyk asked about county levy dollars that are used to draw down federal dollars.*

*Ms. Moore explained how they receive a small amount of federal dollars.*

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

- Regular Meeting – October 7, 2019

**MOTION** Mr. Robinson moved, Mr. Foust seconded a motion to approve the aforementioned meeting minutes as presented.

**The motion to approve the minutes as presented carried unanimously by a voice vote.**

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS ON LEGISLATION**

*President Michael declared public hearings and voting on legislation previously introduced to be in order.*

**Ordinance No. 40-2019**

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.

**The foregoing Ordinance Title was read.**

*Mr. Hurley explained that staff has been working with Lou Briggs' daughters about planting a tree in her honor. The discussion has been about doing it during the Arbor Day ceremony with the planting of a tree and dedication of a plaque. Because some of the family live out of state, we wanted to bring this for approval so they can make travel arrangements. There will be a discussion with the Arbor Committee about the selection of an appropriate tree.*

*President Michael remarked that Lou Briggs was one of the most important people in the City who touched her life. She explained how she interviewed for Parks and Recreation Committee and was interviewed by Ms. Briggs alone. She mentored her when running for Council and during their time on Council together. She was always willing to help everyone that she could.*

*Mr. Myers explained how he took her spot as council representative to the Municipal Planning Commission. She encouraged him to apply and supported him. She taught him how to do government right. He was blessed and privileged to work with her.*

*Ms. Kowalczyk clarified that Ms. Briggs was the first woman to serve on council. President Michael said yes. Ms. Kowalczyk asked if that could be included in the ordinance or the marker.*

**MOTION**

Ms. Kowalczyk moved, seconded by Mr. Myers to amend section one to include "the first female Worthington City Councilmember"

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

*Mr. Robinson commented that he met Ms. Briggs in 2009 and she was quick to open her house to him and remembers her very fondly.*

**There being no additional comments, the clerk called the roll on Ordinance No. 40-2019 (As Amended). The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

**Ordinance No. 40-2019 (As Amended) was thereupon declared duly passed and is recorded in full in the appropriate record book.**

**NEW LEGISLATION TO BE INTRODUCED**

**Resolution No. 59-2019**

Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement with Poggemeyer Design Group for Services Related to Community Visioning.

**Introduced by Mr. Smith.**

**MOTION**

Mr. Myers made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 59-2019. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dorothy.

*Mr. Greeson explained how the Visioning Committee has been hard at work and Vice Chair Jack Miner will give an update about where they are.*

*Mr. Miner explained how the committee has had three formal meetings and one meet and greet so far. One of the biggest chunks of their work has been around the scope of services. They are also pleased that they have elected a chair and vice chair. Joe Sherman is the chair and he is the vice chair. The intention is for them to report to Council on a monthly basis to give a report and answer any questions. As of this evening they will begin communications with the general public to make sure the community understands the progress they are making and work they are doing. There will be opportunities for all the community to be engaged. Announcements will be made in newsletters. Information will be collected from interested persons.*

*He noted in the scope of services that there is a strong focus on community engagement including a phone survey, in person surveying, interviews, and the Bang the Table software that will help engage the community. They will be working to meet Council's expectation to engage 80% of the community in this process. He asked Council not to look at the scope as completely linear, the timing will weave throughout.*

*As for the next steps, they anticipate spending the next few meetings meeting with staff on getting a state of development in the community as it currently exists as well as meeting with representatives from the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission and a third party consultant brought from Poggemeyer. Discussion will center around the climate and need in the community from a business development standpoint.*

*He expressed to Council that the committee would like to move forward with the contract.*

*Ms. Kowalczyk brought up Age Friendly Worthington and explained how an assessment needs to be done. She sees this as an opportunity to move forward with age friendly questions. Mr. Miner responded they are not at that point yet. Ms. Kowalczyk said there are other demographic issues they should consider.*

*Mr. Myers asked about the process through which the committee came to this scope. Mr. Miner replied that the whole committee recommended this. They spent two full meetings going through the scope line-by-line. There was the full understanding that they are driving the process. They also wanted to make sure they had some flexibility to think about what ways they wanted to engage the community. Mr. Myers asked if these changes were driven by the committee, not the consultant, and if the recommendation represented the entire committee. Mr. Miner said yes.*

*President Michael asked about engagement with groups in the community. Mr. Miner said all meetings are public and advertised. Members of the public have already come in and been engaged. Persons can reach out to himself, Joe, or Ms. Stewart to find out how to be engaged.*

*Mr. Robinson thanked Mr. Miner and Mr. Sherman for taking the mantle of leadership for the committee.*

**There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 59-2019 passed unanimously by a voice vote.**

**Resolution No. 60-2019** Authorizing an Amendment to the Final Development Plan for 535 Lakeview Plaza Boulevard and Authorizing Variances (Greater Columbus Volleyball Club/Chris Vondran).

**Introduced by Ms. Dorothy.**

**MOTION** Ms. Kowalczyk made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 60-2019. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robinson.

*Mr. Brown explained how SuperGames was looking to relocate to a property on Huntley Road and he reported they are successfully in the process relocating. The owner is working with the Greater Columbus Volleyball Club to take over this site. They're looking to go from 170 spaces with Play CBUS to 196 spaces. They are looking for a variance, which went before the Municipal Planning Commission and was recommended for approval.*

*Ms. Dorothy asked how long ago we set up our parking requirements for zoning. Mr. Brown said the original code was set up in 1971.*

*President Michael explained how she talked with Gary Moore who owns SuperGames and he could not say enough good things about how much help he has gotten from staff.*

**There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 60-2019 passed unanimously by a voice vote.**

**REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS**

- Proposed 2020 Operating Budget & Five-Year Forecast

*Mr. Greeson described how under the City Charter, the City Manager must submit an operating budget estimate and budget message at least sixty days prior to the beginning of each budget year. He thanked Mr. Bartter and his Finance Department team, Ms. Stewart for her work on the CIP, and the rest of the departmental leadership team for working on this budget. He went on to explain how our mission in City government is to ensure an exceptional quality of life for our citizens. We have developed a series of services, facilities, programs to ensure that quality of life. In this budget, we are seeking to continue our current level of services. Council adopted plans, legal mandates, policies and priorities are all aimed at improving, enhancing, maintaining our quality of service.*

*The CIP discussion will be a deeper dive into our capital improvement programs. We see some challenges in the future for our capital needs, specifically our needs outweighing our revenue to provide these needs.*

*The transition of 911 call answering will need to utilize a onetime investment from the fund balance. We are using the fund balance to help us deal with a decline in revenue due to the vacancy at the Anthem building. The fund balance allows flexibility to work with through economic events and for strategic purposes.*

*Mr. Bartter detailed how incomes taxes make up 68% of operating revenue. We are very reliant on employer withholding. Looking at the 2020 income tax estimate, we are estimating a small, less than .5% growth of revenues. Revenues are projected to go up 5% in 2021 with the anticipation of full utilization of the Anthem Building. We have \$2.5 million in Parks and Recreation fees. Over a five year period, they have averaged a 3% increase. However, they are a cyclical revenue source and dependent on the economy.*

*Ms. Dorothy asked about the Parks and Recreation fees and explained how the department's overall budget is \$6 million and user fees make up \$2.5 million. Mr. Bartter said that is correct. Ms. Dorothy clarified that EMS transport fees were for anytime EMS goes out, we try to bill for it, but if we do not collect then we do not collect. Mr. Bartter said that we do not hard bill the residents. Ms. Dorothy said that fire protection services is because it used to be the township, but we took it over. Mr. Bartter replied that we receive 80% for the coverage in Perry Township in addition to the Sharon Township portion. He also explained that Riverlea pay for a certain number of hours for police protection each year, and that contract is approved as part of the budget process.*

*Mr. Bartter discussed property taxes and how we are estimating a 2.33% increase from 2019. We anticipate an increase in 2021 that could be 8 or 9%. Ms. Dorothy noted that the city gets 5 mills of property taxes.*

*Mr. Bartter explained that we estimate a 41.16% increase from the increased gas tax passed earlier this year. We are already seeing increased collections from that. That money will be utilized in 2020 to decrease the transfer to the street maintenance fund. In the past we have transferred \$250,000. As we move forward, we do start to accumulate*

*some fund balance in that fund and there may be some opportunity to increase capital spending from there.*

*Ms. Dorothy noted that this gas tax and license tax money goes to pay salaries for persons involved in street services such as street cleaning and leaf collection. She then asked if we have totally separate street maintenance. Mr. Bartter said that the Street Maintenance and Repair Fund and the State Highway Fund funds seven different fulltime positions. A significant amount of operating expenses occurs in those two funds along with the water and sewer which splits half a full time person each. There are a lot of components to the MMVLT tax which receives its own separate funding.*

*Mr. Bartter overviewed expenditures and how almost \$16 million goes to provide public safety services including Police, Fire, EMS, and the Northwest Center for dispatching services. The Parks and Recreation Department is just over \$6 million including administration, parks maintenance, the Community Center, the Griswold Senior Center, and recreation programs. Service and Engineering has a budget of just over \$4 million to provide services such as snow removal, leaf collection, street maintenance, building, maintenance, and capital project management. General Administration is just under \$4 million and includes city management, communication, Mayor's Court, health services, legal services, information technology, and personnel.*

*Mr. Myers asked when the trash contract was coming up. Mr. Bartter replied that this was the last year.*

*Mr. Smith asked about how economic development costs were spread out. Mr. Bartter replied that it was rolled up into general administration in terms of building costs. Economic development includes Economic Development Fund. We did not want to lump everything into general administration.*

*Mr. Foust asked about the economic development percentage and if there was any benchmarking to give us a frame of reference about where we stand compared to other cities. Mr. Bartter said we could look at other cities.*

*Mr. Bartter detailed how in the five year forecast you can see the drop in 2020 due to a flat income tax and no one time revenue from the Revolving Fund. There is a spike in 2021 from income tax projections accounting for the Anthem building.*

*For expenditures, you see a spike in 2020 due to funding both the contract with Northwest Center and the part time running of our own dispatch center. Expenditures will drop in 2021 from the transfer of services to the Northwest Center fulltime. We are using a percentage of the fund balance in 2020 and future years. With this projection we do stay above the 35% minimum fund balance target.*

*Ms. Dorothy asked about why we have the 35% fund balance target. Mr. Bartter explained that is from the fund balance policy adopted by Council previously.*

*Mr. Robinson asked about the projected savings from moving to the Northwest Center for 911 calls. He is having trouble finding where in the budget that shows up. Mr. Bartter said that shows up in multiple lines and he has something that has the line by line changes affecting multiple areas. Mr. Robinson asked about the estimated 2019 expenditures going up 17% due to the changes to the revolving fund and the 911 call center. He is afraid that there is a distorted picture being created. Mr. Bartter said that expenditures are occurring in different spots. Operational funds are from general fund down to the special parks fund for what it costs to run the city on a regular basis. That statement is included in the budget document.*

- Proposed 2020 2020-2024 Capital Improvements Program

*Ms. Dorothy asked about expenditures being put in out years in the hopes of finding outside funding in the future. Ms. Stewart said that we look at the most immediate needs and there were some projects in previous CIPs that were never completed.*

*This CIP is very financially constrained, and it was one of the most challenging years since she has been working on the CIP. Revenue is flat from 2019 to 2020. It is primarily supported by income tax, with trends relating to that funding source affecting the CIP. Revenues are not keeping up with the expenditures demands and our debt levels are increasing. With this, we are primarily focused on maintaining our existing infrastructure.*

*The CIP is driven by a variety of project and equipment expenditures. One project is the Kenyonbrook sewer project. Another demand is for improvements to the police building that need to be addressed. 2021 has a higher amount from projects including sewers and for energy conservation improvements in city buildings. In the last year we have uptick for equipment with a scheduled replacement of a fire engine.*

*She broke down all revenue sources including income taxes, debt proceeds, license tax, and the MMVLT. We have two years in the CIP where we propose issuing debt.*

*The largest category of expenditures is for projects, making up 56% of total expenditures. The second largest is payment for debt and lease payments at 22%. Equipment costs are at 16% and administrative costs make up 6%.*

*Looking at revenues and expenditures, it goes up and down primarily due to bonding. When we issue bonds it shows that we have revenue coming in but sometimes the expenditures are spread out over multiple years. Traditionally we have had the goal of having a 100% balance to help with cash flow and short term temporary financing. That gives us the ability to invest in opportunities that arise or to respond to emergencies. However, we have not met that target for several years. We are spending more than we are bringing in the first several years of the CIP and hovering between 50-60% of the previously established target.*

*There are multiple City Council priorities expressed in this CIP including:*

- *The Wilson Bridge Road Corridor including partial funding for improvements to McCord Park in 2020 and we would need to find \$1 million of external funding. Also, arterial improvements for West Wilson Bridge Road in 2023.*
- *Age Friendly which is primarily associated with the operating budget. However, the Griswold Center window replacement in 2021 and Griswold Center fitness equipment replacement in 2023 are included.*
- *Energy efficiency improvements which are being done to the Police Building in 2020 and the Municipal Building, Fire Station, Planning & Building Facility, Service & Engineering Building, Parks Maintenance Building, and McConnell Arts Center in 2021.*
- *Bike and Pedestrian implementation spend \$100,000 annually in 2020 and 2021, and \$250,000 annually in 2022 through 2024.*
- *Updated office buildings have incentive programs funded in the Operating Budget.*
- *Electric vehicle charging is reflected in 2019 operating expenditures.*

*She overviewed long term debt per capita and explained how prior to 2000 the City carried very little debt. In the early 2000s the Community Center was built and the office building where the Division of Police is now located was refurbished. With that, new debt was issued.*

*Mr. Robinson asked if the numbers shown in the chart of long term debt per capita are actual dollars not adjusted for inflation. Mr. Bartter said they are actual dollars. Mr. Robinson asked for inflation adjusted dollars.*

*Ms. Stewart highlighted new debt in the current CIP which includes a State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) loan to provide gap financing for the Northeast Gateway project, and spending on public safety and other City radios.*

*Ms. Dorothy asked if the SIB loan was included in the slide showing debt. Ms. Stewart said federal funds would pay for the principal, but we would be responsible for interest costs. Mr. Myers noted the high costs of the loan. Ms. Stewart said the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) said we had to use this financing.*

*Mr. Smith brought up the about Division of Police building project and ABM energy savings. He asked about using the state energy loan fund for improvements. Mr. Bartter said we would look at all potential sources of funding. Mr. Smith said it might make sense to take a loan from the state. Mr. Greeson explained that we moved energy savings measures from 2020 to 2021 given our financial situation. He expressed it makes sense to look at all other opportunities for financing. For the Police building it makes sense to do the improvements all at once. Last year's CIP did not reflect the extent of improvements to that building. Mr. Smith also asked to keep in mind PACE funding.*

*Mr. Foust commented listening to all we have covered, he is struggling with how income is down, expenses are up, and the CIP fund is depleted. The amount of debt is troubling. He expressed that personally, he would cut back on expenses with a decrease in revenues. Ms. Stewart noted staff wrestled with these number extensively and this was not an easy*

*process. Mr. Foust said these were difficult conversations to have. President Michael noted these are health and safety expenses that are hard to say no to. Mr. Greeson explained that generally in the CIP we try to focus on the must-dos and on Council priorities. Staff is not comfortable with this level of debt either.*

*Ms. Stewart overviewed the 2020 investments. The Kenyonbrook Sewer Project is part of the final two years of sanitary sewer repair and rehabilitation where we must be compliant by 2023. The Community Center pools need resurfacing and we feel the need to repair them to avoid cuts and scrapes to users of the pool. Several new projects are included that were not in prior CIPs. This includes bathroom and shower renovations at the Division of Fire and EM building that have caused damage to other parts of the building. There are Rush Run Stream and Huntley Bowl improvements. The street and sidewalk improvement program has not changed with inflation and the funding has not increase as costs have increased.*

*Mr. Robinson asked if the sidewalk improvement line item includes maintenance of existing sidewalks. Ms. Stewart said that is correct, it is not for new expansion of sidewalks in the City.*

*Ms. Stewart detailed how it includes the Selby Park playground replacement, bike and pedestrian improvements, and funding for the final three years of the Community Wayfinding signage.*

*Ms. Dorothy asked how many playgrounds we have and how often we replace them. Ms. Stewart responded that we have been doing one playground a year, but that has been changed to one very other year. Mr. Hurley said we currently have 14 playgrounds, and he described how rubber surfacing does not outlast equipment and sometimes vice versa.*

*Ms. Kowalczyk asked if the Selby Park replacement includes work on the shelter house. Mr. Hurley said there is a study about a rebuild scheduled in 2022.*

*Mr. Robinson asked about McCord Park and if any of the \$1.8 million is for required maintenance or if it is discretionary. Mr. Hurley said that if you recall McCord Park concept plan was brought to Council last year with a \$2.8 million estimated cost. We are now in the more detailed design stage which will make those numbers more hard and fast. You can build a restroom or storage building which varies hundreds of thousands of dollars. The playground is near end of its life and needs to be addressed. The rest of it is for restrooms, ballfields, and configuration of the park.*

*Ms. Stewart explained how for the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) equipment funding, we are looking for grant funding. The SCBA equipment is at the end of its useful life and that is why it is programmed into 2020. The Division of Police building furniture is needing to be replaced and the records management software for the Police is no longer maintained or supported.*

*There are some uncertainties that include the short term financing costs mentioned earlier and funding for SwimInc. This CIP does not have any funding allocated for SwimInc. If funding is to be extended, the CIP will need to be amended accordingly. We also need to find external funding for McCord park. Currently we are in the midst of assessment for waterlines and traffic signals.*

*Ms. Dorothy said after meeting with the Worthington School board, she wants to propose looking at having some funding available to make sure we shore up the infrastructure for the pools.*

*Mr. Myers said he is uncertain how we left it. He asked if there will be a formal presentation at the new year about the pools. Mr. Greeson said he will be scheduling meetings with the schools in upcoming weeks to discuss the pools. The purpose is to build out these options and further analyze them. Second will be to prepare for a public meeting. We want community feedback and we are exploring a meeting at the school auditorium in early December to go over the further developed options and get the public's feedback. We also would like feedback from Councilmembers about their ideas and how they feel about it. The challenge is how all this syncs up with the adoption of our CIP. We will have to potentially demonstrate some flexibility and talk about how we would adjust.*

*Mr. Foust commented that he would offer himself to be part of these conversations. He stressed that time is of the essence because the state funds expire within eight months. He expressed that he heard the school hedging on whether they were willing to make a commitment.*

*Mr. Myers asserted that he heard that the City is going to have to take the lead on this project.*

*Ms. Stewart explained the impacts on constrained funding. \$4.745 million was added to bonding over and above what was projected. Projects were moved and delayed by a year or two. Mr. Greeson explained how staff wants to be transparent about the decisions being made in a constrained year.*

*President Michael asked about the bonded dollars and expressed her concern if we have the ability to continuously bond and pay for this.*

*Mr. Greeson explained that current revenues are not sufficient to fund our needs to maintain our current levels of service. Income tax has been the primary source of revenue and has not kept up, leading to increasing debt. We need to evaluate all our expenditures and we welcome conversations about priorities and decisions made. He conveyed that we do believe need to evaluate additional revenue opportunities. Currently a fee evaluation is being conducted in Parks and Recreation. That is aimed at looking at if our fees are aligned with both the market cost recovery and subsidy rates. We need to periodically look at and adjust those. Water and sewer surcharge rates have not increased since we were incorporated. The Ohio Legislature has recently authorized municipalities to increase the*

*license plate tax with an additional \$5 charge. While we need to discuss the expenditure side, we are at the point where our revenues cannot support our desired outcomes.*

*Mr. Robinson asked about the appropriate process for the City to reevaluate our Wilson Bridge Road corridor plan considering it represents a large percentage of our income. Mr. Greeson said normally we would initiate major planning initiatives as an outgrowth of the Council retreat. The second way would be by allocating planning dollars in the budget.*

*Mr. Myers said he read in the narrative that there were certain equipment purchases delayed several years. Ms. Stewart said she discussed with the Fleet Manager about what is absolutely needed. Mr. Greeson said the exception was the police cruiser and mower cycle. Mr. Myers said our ladder truck was reaching 10 years old and the last time we stretched the use out to 17 years. The point he is driving is that we do not have a ladder truck budgeted in this CIP. He said Council does not have much of a say over the operating budget, but the CIP is an expression of our priorities. Wilson Bridge Road is our top priority. With that said, there is nothing in this budget for streetscape enhancements outside of the NE corridor. Mr. Greeson noted that Mr. Brown, Mr. McCorkle, and a traffic consultant have been talking with employers and evaluating transportation needs in that area. We may bring recommendations back related to that. If that is requested to be added, we have the Heights TIF to help support that. Mr. Myers noted that West Wilson Bridge has more momentum than East Wilson Bridge. Our corridor plan calls for enhancements across Wilson Bridge Road. There is no money in this budget to make real estate purchases on East Wilson Bridge. Mr. Greeson responded that we have some cash balances in the Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) account, and we may be able to employ short term financing strategies for that. Mr. Myers noted there are long term plans to extend the bike path and we do not have that.*

*President Michael asked about seeking of trails funding. Mr. Hurley said staff has been engaged with neighboring communities and Metroparks in conversations currently.*

*Mr. Myers pressed how Wilson Bridge Road is important to us. The Olentangy is at one end and the Community Center at the other end and we have envisioned connecting the two. This budget does not help with tying the two together. He wants to make sure we do not abandon the keystone here, McCord Park which is the destination here. He asked Mr. Hurley what \$1.8 million is going to get us. Mr. Hurley responded that is the question and we are in the process of defining that. When you look at the different features in the approved concept plan, the biggest numbers are the playground and improvements to the ballfields. If you are looking to drive down cost, then you are looking at significant reductions of what you are doing. There is room to look at the different variations of what to spend and give some tiered looks. Mr. Myers said he would prefer a phased approach rather than a tiered approach, he wants it to look good and functional.*

*Ms. Kowalczyk expressed that she appreciated the importance of looking at McCord Park. It lends itself well to the Age Friendly Initiative. She stressed why McCord Park rises to*

*the top including it is economic development, engagement, and age-friendly. There are numerous reasons to keep it as a top priority.*

- Financial Report – September 2019

**MOTION** Ms. Kowalczyk moved, Mr. Robinson seconded a motion to accept the September 2019 Financial Report as presented.

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

## **REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**

*Mr. Robinson said he attended the National Trust conference in Denver last week. He will provide commentary about his experience in November.*

*Ms. Dorothy explained she attended the MORPC Sustainability Summit. Worthington unfortunately has not signed up for several sustainability measures. She did mention how Worthington won the MORPC Sustainability 2050 platinum award. The cemetery board is still working through the overall planning process for the Ozem Gardner residence. They hope to start construction next year.*

*Ms. Kowalczyk explained how she and Ms. Dorothy attended the Family Mentor Association packing of buddy boxes. That illustrates the City's community grant dollars at work. She and Collen Light attended a meeting about Age Friendly communities in Ohio that was intended to share information and to have a seat at table when Age Friendly Ohio is slated to start. Other communities have similar issues. This network will be a great resource moving forward.*

*President Michael expressed she is proud of Vice Mayor Jim Lorimer who is being inducted to Columbus Hall of Fame at the Lincoln Theater October 30<sup>th</sup>.*

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION** Mr. Foust moved, Mr. Myers seconded a motion to meet in Executive Session to discuss appointment, economic developments, board commission appointments.

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

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

**No 0**

Council recessed at 9:45 P.M. from the Regular meeting session

**MOTION** Ms. Dorothy moved, Mr. Myers seconded a motion to return to open session at 10:15 P.M.

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

President Michael declared the meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

/s/ Ethan C. Barnhardt  
Assistant City Clerk

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

/s/ Bonnie D. Michael  
Council President